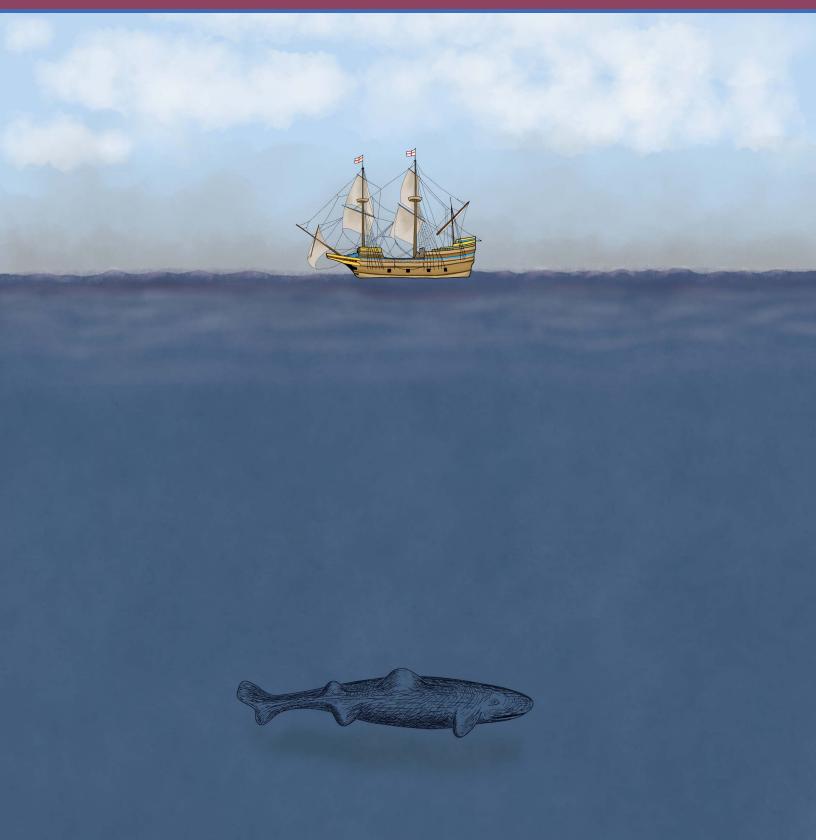


The Florida Pilgrim

The Newsletter of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida

Volume 49, Number 2

August 2024



Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants

Chartered by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants on July 31, 1937

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Tom Williamson					
COLONY GO	OVERNORS				
COLONY GO	Linda A. Williams				
COLONY GO John Alden, Fort Lauderdale	Linda A. WilliamsMark Rhodes				
John Alden, Fort Lauderdale Isaac Allerton, West Palm Beach	Linda A. Williams Mark Rhodes Robbie Robinson				
John Alden, Fort Lauderdale	Linda A. Williams Mark Rhodes Robbie Robinson Clara Waterman Powell				
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Recreation of Plymouth Colony at Plimoth Patuxet Museum, Plymouth MA, 2019. Credit: Bill Cheshire

MESSAGE FROM OUR GOVERNOR

Greetings Florida Pilgrims!

elcome to the next edition of *The Florida Pilgrim*, rated as one of the best newsletters in all of the Mayflower Society by Governor General Lisa Pennington. The spring meeting went very well thanks to Tom Williamson who had to arrange a reception room on Friday on quick notice. In her thank you note, Lisa said she was impressed by the friendliness, intelligence, and dedication to the Mayflower Society of the people she met. She also said her gift, the last bottle of 400th Mayflower Anniversary bourbon, got home safely, and she is enjoying its contents.

The General Society has started zoom events this year. The Governor General has quarterly reviews which any member can watch by going to the General Society website, then under the members area tab, log in, select events, and register. Also, Mark Schmidt has been holding zoom meetings with Society Governors to exchange ideas for attracting new members and retaining our current members. Some Societies are not getting many new members. In Florida, though, we have 60 new members already this year as well as several transfers and 9 reinstatements. The fall meeting brochure is out, so you can get a room and register now. See you in Estero.

It has come to my attention that a couple of the colonies don't have their Charter. If any colony doesn't have their charter, please let me know. Our Counselor has recommended a way to make a duplicate with current officers signing and using the original date. The Colony Charter should be displayed at each colony meeting.

Enjoy this renown newsletter.

Best wishes,

Brian McWaters Governor, Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants



If Ancients Could Speak

by William P. Cheshire

is lineage. Knowledge of direct descent from men and women who courageously changed the course of history establishes a living continuity with the past, the memory of which thereby cannot be extinguished. A blood descendant can personally feel connected to a decisive moment in history that continues to shape the ongoing story of a great nation.

Members of the Mayflower Society are directly descended from the passengers of the ship that crossed the Atlantic Ocean in 1620, passengers who, seeking religious freedom and a better life, established the first permanent colony in New England and laid the foundations of American democracy. The lines of Mayflower descendancy stretch across four centuries. My own descent is from my tenth greatgrandfather William Bradford. He lived a very long time ago.

Imagine how much more recent—how *immediate*—the Mayflower history might seem to us if there were someone alive then who is still alive today.

That would, of course, be humanly impossible. The average U.S. life expectancy in 2020 was 78.9 years, and the oldest verified person on record lived 122 years. Other than in times of war or plague, throughout history average human life

expectancy has rarely exceeded 70 years.³ The last surviving *Mayflower* passenger was Mary Allerton Cushman, who was about four years old when she arrived in Plymouth Colony with her parents, Isaac and Mary Norris Allerton, and she died in Plymouth in 1699.

Humans are not, however, the longest-living creatures on planet Earth. The longest-living vertebrates are Greenland sharks (*Somniosus microcephalus*), which—surprisingly—can live for more than 400 years.

The exceptional longevity of Greenland sharks is a recent discovery. In 2016, an international team of scientists studied a number of Greenland sharks accidently ensnared in trawling nets used to catch other varieties of fish. The scientists estimated their ages by measuring radiocarbon isotopes in the lenses of the sharks' eyes. The nucleus of their lens, it turns out, contains metabolically inert proteins that crystallize during embryonic development and thus constitute a molecular record of the date of their birth. By comparing the ratios of carbon isotopes with shark body length, they were able to generate a growth curve that allowed them to calculate the ages of their sharks, the oldest of which was 392, plus or minus 120 years.⁴

¹ Life expectancy in the United States, 1860-2020

² List of the verified oldest people

³ Changing life expectancy throughout history

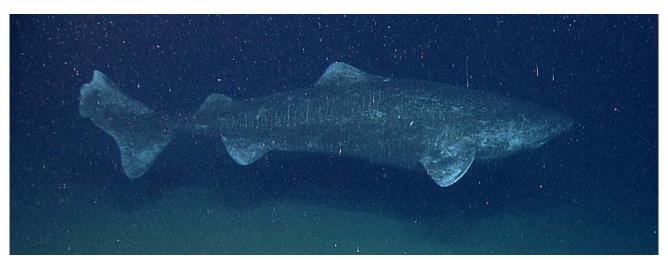
⁴ Nielsen J, Hedeholm RB, Heinemeier J, Bushnell PG, Christiansen JS, Olsen J, Ramsey CB, Brill RW, Simon M, Steffensen KF, Steffensen JF. Eye lens radiocarbon reveals centuries of longevity in the Greenland

That means, swimming somewhere in the depths of the Atlantic Ocean today, there may very well be a Greenland shark that was alive when the *Mayflower* sailed in 1620. Such a shark would have reached reproductive age around the time the Declaration of Independence was signed.

The Greenland shark's biological name, *Somniosus microcephalus*, translates to "sleepy small head." It is so named because of its short snout, relative to other sharks, and its sluggish movement, as it swims slowly in its habitat of cold waters and at great depths. Greenland sharks, which are typically 8-14 feet long but can grow to 24 feet, are found predominantly in Northern Atlantic and Arctic waters. They have also been spotted off the coast of Cape Cod. They

sharks. Moreover, it is plausible that one or more young Greenland sharks swimming in the vicinity of the *Mayflower* in 1620 might still be alive today, provided that in subsequent years they eluded fisherman's nets and capture for their meat, skin, or oil. The Greenland shark is currently classified as an endangered species.⁶

Famously (see Carly Sawyer's article in the April 2024 issue of *The Florida Pilgrim*), into those cold North Atlantic waters fell *Mayflower* passenger John Howland. The story of his rescue, as the men above deck hauled in the lanyard clutched by his nearly frozen hands, is remarkable enough without supposing that a Greenland shark might have appeared to nudge him above the water line. Greenland sharks swim



Credit: NOAA OKEANOS Explorer Program , 2013 Northeast U. S. Canyons Expedition. Image: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AExpl9984_(14318817140).jpg Image in public domain.

swim comfortably at water temperatures of between 34 and 68 degrees Fahrenheit and retreat to depths of 4000 feet (one was spotted at a depth of 7218 feet).⁵

The *Mayflower*, therefore, very likely passed over waters inhabited by Greenland

much too slowly to be useful in that way, even if they had the intelligence to come to human aid.

Shark intelligence may be greater than one would think, though, at least in terms of memory. A study of grey bamboo sharks, which are native to the Indo-West Pacific Endangered species red list: Greenland shark

 $sharp \ (\textit{Somniosus microcephalus}). \ \textit{Science } 2016; \ 353: \ 702-704.$

⁵ Florida Museum website about Greenland sharks

Oceans, found that they remembered how to identify specific shapes shown to them, even when depicted in an optical illusion, a year later.⁷

of the Mayflower voyage, Plymouth Colony, and the words of the Mayflower Compact. This written account allows us to collapse our mental timeline and experience in our

It is possible that a Greenland shark that swam by the *Mayflower* in 1620 might still be alive today.

Even if a Greenland shark had the capacity to remember the *Mayflower* passing by, a shark, whose brain is focused on feeding, would have attached no significance to it. And sharks keep no written records.

But we do have the human written record to augment our "historical memory" of the great event that took place in 1620. The journal of Plymouth Governor William Bradford, *Of Plimoth Plantation*, written between 1630 and 1651, records the story

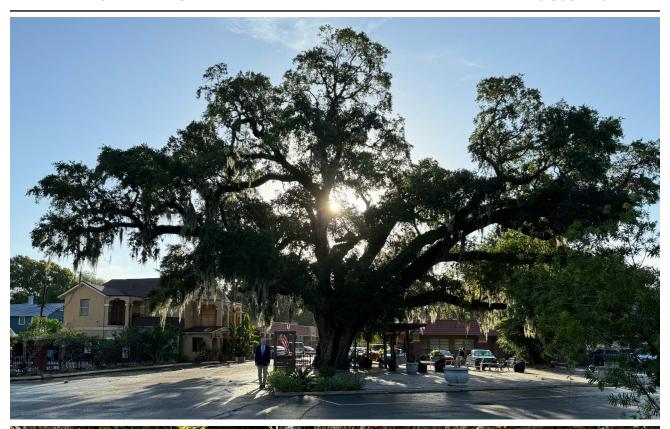
imaginations the history of the Pilgrims. Written documentation supplies what longevity cannot.

The Greenland shark, by its very survival, affirms the continuity of history. It was there when the *Mayflower* sailed, and not just its kind, but possibly at least one creature that is still alive today. And we, too, were there, vicariously through the historical record, and biologically, in a way, through our familial lineages.

Other living things that were alive when the *Mayflower* sailed

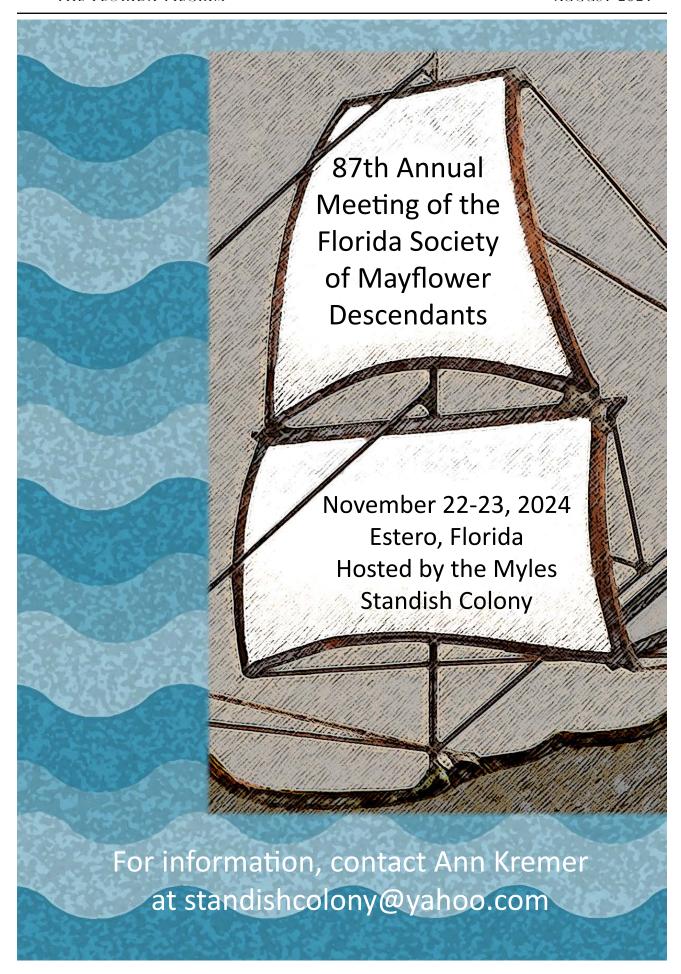
- Old Senator, a live oak in St. Augustine, Florida, estimated to be over 600 years old (see next page)
- Lady Liberty, a bald cypress in Longwood, Florida, estimated to be over 2000 years old
- Methuselah, a bristlecone pine in California's White Mountains, estimated by radiocarbon dating and counting growth rings to be 4850 years old
- A colony of Pennsylvania's box huckleberry in Losh Run, estimated to be 13,000 years old
- The Trembling Giant of Utah, one of tens of thousands of aspen trees that share a single root system, estimated to be 80,000 years old
- A glass sponge in the East China Sea, estimated to be over 11,000 years old
- The volcano sponges of Antarctica, estimated to be 15,000 years old
- A patch of sea grass meadow near the Spanish island of Formentera in the Mediterranean Sea, which geneticists estimate to be the oldest known single organism on Earth, estimated to be 200,000 years old

⁷ Laura Clark. Sharks have scary-good memories. *Smithsonian Magazine*, February 27, 2015.





The Old Senator, an ancient live oak tree in St. Augustine, Florida, which is estimated to be over 600 years old, was alive when the *Mayflower* landed. Top image taken by Doris Cheshire.



MAYFLOWER SCHOLARSHIP

The Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants awards scholarships each year to a high school senior or a returning member of the US military who will be attending a college or university or vocational school. Students must be sponsored by a biological relative of a current member in good standing of the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants. Applications are judged on the basis of a personal essay, unweighted grade point average, school transcript, evidence of leadership, extracurricular and volunteer activities, and letters of recomemendation.

THE FLORIDA SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE ITS 2024 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES



Hannah Joy Adhikari of Somerset, New Jersey, is sponsored by Barbara Kelsky of the Myles Standish Colony and will be attending Amherst College, studying law.

Faith Marie Nash of Harbert, Michigan, is sponsored by David Lowell Nash of the James Chilton Colony and will be attending Wheaton College, studying math and Latin.

Leila Rae Embry of League City, Texas, is sponsored by Keith Embry of the Stephen Hopkins Colony and will be attending the University of Houston, studying English and journalism.

Maddox Christian Lingo of Sunrise, Florida, is sponsored by Rebecca Ramirez of the John

Alden Colony and will be attending Florida International University, studying business management.

The Scholarship Committee congratulates these remarkable students. The Committee would also like to express its appreciation to the additional 9 applicants, all of them very fine students, who did not receive an award. We admire their values and commitment to service, and we wish them success in their future academic and life pursuits.

The Mayflower Scholarship Committee consists of Clara Waterman Powell (chair), Jackie Arsenault, Sharon Janks, Teri Peterson, and William P. Cheshire.

THE SCHOLARS' ESSAYS

We are pleased to share the essays submitted by this year's scholarship awardees, each of whom has graciously given permission for his or her essay to be included in this issue of *The Florida Pilgrim*.

The Legal Legacy of Francis Cooke

by Hannah Adhikari

n 1620, 102 English immigrants boarded the Mayflower and set sail in hopes of a land where they might champion their beliefs, as opposed to their homeland, where injustice denied them such rights. According to Cambridge *Dictionary*, a trailblazer is "the first person to do something or go somewhere, who shows that it is also possible for other people." One of these immigrants, Francis Cooke, subscribed to this definition from the moment he set foot in the New World. More specifically, as a former member of the Church of England, which threatened and persecuted any who dared disagree with the Church, Cooke was no stranger to oppression. Since the withholding of justice by those in power was a familiar feeling to him, he consequently sought to prevent such wrongdoings in the lives of others.

Cooke and his oldest son boarded the *Mayflower*, leaving behind his wife, Hester,

as well as four other children (Caleb Johnston's Mayflower History, 2024). Arriving in Plymouth, he subsequently helped to establish the Massachusetts Bay Company, which attracted "more than 20,000 inhabitants" in the following twenty years (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2023). Most notably, however, he served on numerous juries, substantially adding to the search for justice for those such as Martha Bishop, a young girl brutally murdered by her mother. He also "won a judgement" against another prominent Plymouth resident, John Browne, whose power concealed the abuse of his cattle at his own hands (University of Urbana-Champaign, 2024). Cooke, in turn, used his own position of power to the advantage of both himself and others in his endeavors to advocate for the voiceless.

It is perhaps Cooke's legal legacy in my own blood that further inspires my aspirations to become a lawyer, specifically on behalf of

those whose voices have been silenced. In recent years, I have shifted my educational perspective. Whereas I may have once contemplated "what I want to be when I grow up," I now focus on the problem(s) I want to solve. Like Cooke, I have begun to form a more critical lens to identify systemic inequities in my own context. Two decades ago, my hometown residents voted to build a new high school for our growing population. However, the new construction redirected resources from one ward to another, perhaps explaining why a tenyear lifespan disparity emerged between the wards in which the previous and new high schools were located. Moreover, the original ward is now home to 70% of residents served by our local food bank as well as the only Title I elementary school of the seven in our township.

In considering the historical record in my hometown, I've begun to contextualize an even more personal problem. At present, I stand at the threshold of two distinct communities, as two-sport captain for my district's 200-athlete track and crosscountry teams as well as student council officer for my 50-student, cooperative academic community. My teammates lean politically progressive; my classmates skew fiscally and socially conservative. While these two communities champion rival platforms, they often rely on similar "slippery slope" fears that perpetuate exclusivity and oppressive ideals. Conversely, I, like the Pilgrims of the 1600s who sought freedom from a suppressive power and fellowship with others holding controversial beliefs, share the conviction societal differences strengthening collective identity. These experiences highlight parallels between my own life and that of Francis Cooke's, particularly regarding our shared desire for advocacy for others as a result of issues in our own lives.

William Bradford and His Legacy

by Faith Nash

hen I was in fourth grade, I remember exchanging famous ancestors with a friend. I was so proud that I was related to William Bradford who had lived on the *Mayflower* ship, crossed the treacherous Atlantic, and had been vital to the colony's success. I loved sharing about it. When I was older, I set out to read his account of his journeys from his journal. I learned much about who he was and what life looked like then. I believe William Bradford was a man who changed our history and helped shape the course of America by leaving a legacy.

Born in 1590, William Bradford eventually became a key leader on the *Mayflower*. He became a Puritan and then was a "pilgrim," seeking a place absent of the persecution that he experienced in England.¹ He was a member of the *Mayflower* and did not start as a leader, but as time passed, he proved himself to be one. When some of the ship's passengers desired to sail to Virginia instead of their new colony, he was among two other men who persuaded them not to.² In doing

¹ Robert Jennings Heinsohn, Society of Mayflower Descendants of Pennsylvania, Comparing Plymouth and Jamestown, n.d. https://sail1620.org/Comparing_Plymouth_and_Jamestown

² Ibid.

so, these men brought to life the Mayflower Compact in 1620. This treatise established an agreement among all passengers and established a representative government.³ If the passengers had sailed to Virginia, they would not have had the same freedoms [as] in the Plymouth colony because they were not technically under the King of England's rules. This seemingly small composition of a compact rippled to the creation of the Constitution. When William Bradford helped write the Mayflower Compact, it gave inspiration to the future Americans that new forms of government could be created independent of the Motherland.

His leadership skills continued after composing this new system of government. When the first governor, John Carver, died, William Bradford was elected to be the succeeding one for numerous years after.⁴ As the second governor of a new colony in undeveloped land, he probably felt the pressure of leading heavily on his shoulders. Because of his diplomatic leadership skills, he upheld the peace with the Native Americans that John Carver had

established.⁵ This peace lasted a total of forty long years, including after he died, which was highly unique compared to the other English settlers' interactions with the Native Americans.⁶

William Bradford was also a diligent historian. He wrote down much of what occurred in his journal, which was eventually published and called Of Plymouth Plantation. Unlike modern journals, the reader does not see all of Bradford's thoughts, but instead gets detailed illustrations of what took place in Holland, on the *Mayflower*, and in America. Suppose Bradford did not take the time to write down the Mayflower Compact and the words spoken during the times. In that case, no one might have been able to learn of what went on or if there even was a Mayflower Compact. William Bradford died on May 9, 1657, leaving a legacy behind.

In conclusion, I have been inspired by his actions. His actions, which might have felt relatively small and unseen then, left life-altering impacts, from creating the Mayflower Compact to upholding peace with the Native Americans.

What My Mayflower Ancestry Means to Me

by Leila Embry

rowing up, I never spent more than two or three years in any one city. My dad's job always kept us on the road, and so I grew up with just my immediate family around me. I rarely saw my grandparents, aunts and uncles, or cousins. I never had any idea of where I came from. I was just another member of a nuclear family with no real specific

culture or heritage or pride. Therefore, when my grandmother, Elaine Lambert, began poking her nose into Ancestry.com and 23andMe, I did not think much of it.

I already figured I was some hodgepodge of English, Irish, and maybe small percentages of other European ethnicities, which had been enough for me up until then. I was

³ Ibid.

⁴ MayflowerHistory.com, 2014. http://mayflowerhistory.com/bradford-william

⁵ Heinsohn, op. cit.

⁶ Ibid.

so far-removed from those cultures that it would not have meant anything to me to know where my roots lie. It was not as if my family had relatives with ties to Europe. I was resigned to a life of bitterly listening to my friend Sophia telling me stories about her summers with family in Italy, feeling happy for her yet jealous that the coolest place any [of] my relatives lived was by Disney World. That was, until my grandmother traced our ancestry all the way back to Mayflower passenger William Brewster, just one of the founders of what would become America. She happened upon this monumental discovery right as I was learning about the Mayflower and her passengers in 8th grade US History, and I was reinvigorated with desire to learn all I could about where I came from. Being the only university-educated member of Plymouth Colony, he unknowingly set a precedent for excellence within me, and I strive to be as worldly as he was compared to his colleagues. I strive to be even a fraction as compassionate and tenderhearted as he.

Though I may not know any of them personally, I feel a strong heartbeat and connection between myself and Brewster's other descendants. Cape Cod is calling my name, and I can only imagine the gratification of a homecoming to the earliest recorded point in my lineage. To me, my Mayflower ancestry means a sense of camaraderie and belonging. I see myself as part of a bigger picture, an ornate and sprawling chain of proud Americans who, like me, are lucky enough to have traced their ancestry to the equally lucky passengers aboard that fateful ship, who could have never fathomed that their humble creed would be the basis for two revolutionary documents to come in America's history.

Moreover, as I sit here writing this essay and reflecting on what my ancestry mans to me, I can only imagine that hundreds of years ago, William Brewster was sitting befor ethe Mayflower Compact pondering a similar thing, what his colony and religion meant to him.

What Would You Tell Me About Your Pilgrim?

by Maddox Lingo

y Pilgrim ancestor is William Brewster. He was one of the 102 *Mayflower* voyagers that traveled to the New World in search of freedom and survived the first, deadly winter. Born in England, Brewster was the son of the postmaster in Scrooby, Nottinghamshire. He was the only Pilgrim aboard the ship with both political and diplomatic experience; therefore, he played a crucial role in the development of the Plymouth community. He is remembered

as an independent thinker, a leader, and a survivor.

Although he never completed his degree, Brewster spent some time studying at Cambridge University. He left and entered into the service of William Davison, the ambassador to the Netherlands. Unfortunately, when Queen Elizabeth removed Davison from his position as Secretary of State, Brewster could no longer serve under him. Regardless, Brewster had

become disillusioned with the diplomatic life, and his father had become quite ill. As such, he returned to his family home to England and followed in his father's footsteps serving as the postmaster at Scrooby Manor.

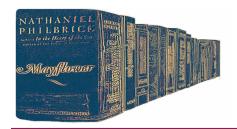
During his brief time in college, Brewster was first exposed to the ideas of Separatism. As an independent thinker, he began to recognize the corruption within the Church of England and began to desire a purer religion. With the assistance of Richard Clyfton, Brewster established a "Brownist Church" (Separatist Church), which met in his home at Scrooby Manor. When they were discovered, they became outlaws. Fleeing from religious persecution and legal consequences in England, Brewster and his congregation emigrated to Holland, where he continued to lead his church. In addition, he began working at a printing press, which gave him the ability to publish religious books and pamphlets to be distributed back in England. He also worked as an English professor at the University of Leiden. Eventually, the authorities in England tracked Brewster down, and the Dutch authorities were tasked with bringing him to justice for his illegal religious activities. Brewster was able to evade their pursuit for a few years by going into hiding. However, his desire for true freedom only grew. This series of events [was] the catalyst that led to Brewster's journey to the New World.

In true pursuit of religious freedom, the congregants of Brewster's church decided

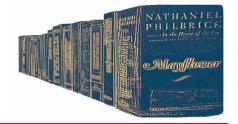
to start new in America. Because he was an Elder and respected leader, William Brewster, his wife, and their two youngest children travelled on the *Mayflower* with the first wave of settlers. Surviving the long voyage and the difficult first winter, Brewster became an influential leader in Plymouth Colony. Although it is unclear who wrote the Mayflower Compact, which was the first self-governing document, the credit is often given to William Brewster because he was so well-educated, a professor of English, and a leader.

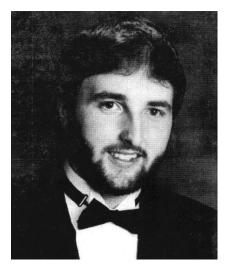
In learning about my Pilgrim ancestor, I would want you to know that his life legacy lives on. My grandfather, a Brewster decendent, has carried forward the strong sentiment for a pure religion, untouched by the corruption of man. He also happens to be the most independent thinker I have ever met personally, and many believe that I have inherited that trait as well. My mother, an English instructor and Brewster descendant, is a survivor. She has endured difficult life situations, and emerged stronger, braver, and better for it. My uncle, another Brewster relative, is a government employee, serving as a leader in both his community and city. Although there are many people who descend and carry on the traits of William Brewster, in just the few descendants that I know personally, it is clear that his legacy of independent thinking, survivorship, and leadership live on.





From the Archives





"Jeanne Erb, Chairman, Florida Society Mayflower Descendants Scholarship Committee, announced [that] this year's Annual Scholarship of \$1,000 was awarded to Daniel Kelly, son of Charles and Peggy Kelly of Evans, GA, at the April 17, 2004, FSMD Board of Assistant's meeting held in Winter Park, FL His grandmother Marlene Howard, a member of the Francis Cooke Colony of the FSMD, presented his candidature. Daniel maintained a 4.0 GPA in his advanced placement and honor classes, with a final ranking of 13th in his graduating class of 365. He will be entering Georgia Institute of Technology this Fall, majoring in Biomedical Engineering."

The Florida Pilgrim, Vol. 29, No. 2, June/July 2004

Daniel was the very first recipient of the FSMD Mayflower Descendants Scholarship, which was instituted in 2003.

Twenty years later, we found Daniel living in Nashville, Tennessee, where he works as marketing manager at Bridgestone. He writes,

I attended Georgia Tech and pursued a Bachelor of Science in Industrial and Systems Engineering. After graduating, I moved to Nashville, TN, to work for Bridgestone Americas and have been here ever since. In my time with Bridgestone, I've held roles in various departments, including Logistics and Supply Chain, Product Management, and most recently, Marketing and Sales Operations. On the personal side, I'm married and have two kids. Betsy, my wonderful wife, is a prosecutor for the Rutherford County District Attorney Office, specializing in cases of domestic violence. My sons, the next generation of Mayflower Descendants, Mac and Hank, are 5 and 2, respectively. They are bright, curious, and rambunctious, keeping my wife and me constantly on our toes.



The first recipient of the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants Scholarship, Daniel Kelly, shown with his wife, Betsy, and their two sons, Mac and Hank.. Image contributed by Daniel Kelly.





Mayflower Society Governor General Lisa Pennington addresses the Florida Society.

Image credit: Bill Cheshire

Spring Board of Assistants Meeting of the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants

Lakeland, Florida, April 20, 2024

Report by William P. Cheshire and Alice Ervin

he Florida Board of Assistants held its spring meeting in Lakeland. The meeting was called to order by Governor Brian McWaters. Marcea Oetting, sitting in for Elder Jackie Arsenault, gve the invocation. Captain James Roorbach then led a reading of the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Mayflower flags.

The Florida Society welcomed special guests Governor General Lisa Pennington and her husband, David Furlow. Beaming with an inextinguishable smile, Governor General Pennington spoke on the subject of "A Tale Worth Telling: Why We Must Share the Pilgrim Story." Among the interesting facts about the Mayflower story that she shared were:

 The 1621 treaty that the Plymouth settlers negotiated with the Wampanoag is the

- longest treaty between settlers and Native Americans in American history. It was honored for 54 years and ended when King Philip's War began in 1675.
- The Massachusetts Mayflower Society has given two Wampanoag scholarships every year for the last 39 years. Occasionally, other state societies have given some, too.
 For instance, Texas gave two scholarships to Wampanoag students for the 2020 anniversary. This year, for the first time, GSMD gave a scholarship to a Wampanoag student.

Reports by state officers followed.

Governor Brian McWaters discussed a procedural change by the General Society that requires that historians must be appointed at the state level and no longer at the colony levels. Former colony historians cannot retain the title of historian; some

colonies are callling their former historians archivists or membership secretaries. Governor McWaters also reminded the board that all members must each year pay their dues in full by November in order to avoid being placed on the drop list.

Deputy Governor Bill Cheshire provided an update on the new Florida Pilgrim, which enters into a publication cycle of thrice yearly, typically in April, August, and December. Colony governors or their representatives are asked to send any colony updates and images for publication to the editor by mid March, July, and November of each year. The newsletter is to be

- A vehicle for disseminating information about upcoming FSMD meetings
- A place for reporting on recent FSMD meetings
- A forum for FSMD colonies to share their events and programs with other colonies
- An educational resource to promote learning about the Mayflower history
- A means for promoting membership retention
- A place where Mayflower scholarship winners are announced

A set of guidelines for submissions to *The Florida Pilgrim* was approved by the Technology Committee and published in the April 2024 issue.

Secretary Alice Ervin, who succeeds Sharon Paugh, is working to develop an automated process for generating quarterly reports.

Treasurer James Preston provided a financial summary for the FSMD, which remains solvent. All bills are paid, and FSMD is current with the Florida Division of Corporations. All colonies have paid their annual dues.

Historian Louise Rumnock reported that, during the first half of 2024, the Florida Society has 60 newly approved members, 8 who have transferred in, 4 dual members, 9 reinstatements, and 27 approved supplementals.

Elder Jackie Arsenault filed a report regarding 8 Society member deaths since November 2023. Memorial Certificates have been mailed to their family members, when known. A memorial service will be prepared for the November 2024 meeting.

Junior Members' chair Clara Waterman Powell reported that FSMD Junior Membership has 969 members with 25 new Junior Members added this year.

Education Committee chair Bill Cheshire discussed *The Mayflower: An Annotated Bibliography for Teachers*, which is available for the asking as a 1.2 mb pdf file. The committee has also prepared a 7-minute video explaining the resource, which is available as a 120 mb mp4 file (too large to share by email). As the Florida Department of Education declined our offer to make this available to Florida public school educators, the resource has been shared by word of mouth.

Scholarship Committee chair Clara Waterman Powell reported a record number of applicants this year

Technology Committee chair Bill Cheshire summarized the activities of the committee in response to the need to update the FSMD website, which was built with technology that has become outdated. Additional needs include organizing and rendering more efficient the collection of data from the 17 FSMD colonies, which come to the secretary in all sorts of formats and specifications. Actions thus far taken include



Image credit: Anne McGuire

- FSMD now owns and has secured the primary domain name www.flmayflower.com as well as the .org and .net addresses, traffic to which will be automatically redirected to the primary site
- A TechSoup organization account has been created, which allows FSMD members who are also TechSoup members to request donations on the organization's behalf by use of the association code 5961-EOFF-NFVI
- The FSMD website will be redesigned and will include links to colony websites.
 For colonies that do not have their own websites, standardized colony-specific webpages will be created within the FSMD website.
- Contact information for FSMD and colony leadership will be posted using nonpersonal email addresses that will forward messages to designated officers without revealing on the website their personal contact information.

- A secure "members only" tab will be created on the FSMD website.
- We would like to make available under the members only tab current and past issues of The Florida Pilgrim for viewing or download.
- Options for contracting with a website designer are under review.

A motion was unanimously passed to approve \$5000 for the budget of the Technology Committee.

Representatives present from each of the FSMD colonies filed reports. The Myles Standish Colony looks forward to hosting the November 2024 Annual Meeting

Captain James Roorbach concluded the meeting by leading a recitation of the Mayflower Compact.

Marcea Oetting, for Elder Jackie Arsenault, gave the benediction.

























Credit for the images on this and the previous two pages goes to Robert McGuire

OTHER MAYFLOWER FAMILY SOCIETIES

here are a number of other societies of Mayflower descendants that may interest you. There is also a new website to help coordinate making information about them easily available. Please see: https://pilgrimfamilysocieties.org. You click on the family name and there are links to specific pages for joining, meetings, scholarships, etc. Credit: The Howland Quarterly, with permission for publication of contact information granted by Gail Adams.

Alden Kindred of America, Inc.

Pauline R. Kezer, President
P.O. Box 2754
Duxbury, MA 02331-2754
director@alden.org
Desiree Mobed, Executive Director
dmobed@alden.org
info@alden.org

Website:

www.alden.org

Reunion: Aug. 2-4, 2024, Duxbury, MA

Pilgrim Isaac Allerton Society

Andrew Raybold Whipple, Governor
P.O. Box 21
Isle La Motte, VT 05463
governor.isaacallertonsociety@gmail.com
Website:

www.isaacallerton.com

We meet together in Pilgrim fellowship with Isaac and Mary Allerton descendants or those interested in the Allerton family through Zoom meetings or in-person meetings. A general meeting of members is held in Plymouth, Massachusetts every three years running concurrently with the General Congress of the Mayflower Society.

Billington Family Society

Bert Lundberg, Governor 71 Lancaster Rd., Freehold, NJ 07728 Cell: 732-616-3862

bertlundberg6@gmail.com billingtonfamilysociety@gmail.com

Contact is James Preston

606 Concord Way

Blairsville, GA 30512-3176

James628@aol.com

Website:

www.billingtonfamilysociety.org

Facebook:

https://m.facebook.com/groups/ 1490353674586226?ref=share

Governor William Bradford Compact

Henry "Chip" Bradford, President 22 Brewster Rd. West Bridgewater, MA 02370 bradfordhenry@hotmail.com Website:

www.mygwbc.org

Meeting: Aug. 3, 2024, Kingston, MA, at the John Bradford house and barn.

The Elder William Brewster Society

Barbara-Lee Kelly, Historian P.O. Box 1162 Plymouth, MA 02362-1162 blee1090@rocketmail.com

Website:

www.brewsterfamily.org

Pilgrim Peter Brown Society

Elizabeth Werner, Governor ehwclw@wowway.com 26625 State Road 590, #222 Clearwater, FL 33759

727-797-8488

Sheryl Schilling, Historian & Newsletter Editor Sschilling1620@gmail.com

Sandra Sauers, Historian ssauersppbs@gmail.com

Website:

www.pilgrimpeterbrownsociety.org

Pilgrim Francis Cooke Society

Dianna Saario, Genealogist 40708 Balch Park Rd Springville, CA 93265-9749 559-280-3450 genealogist@pilgrimfranciscookesociety.org Website:

https://pilgrimfranciscookesociety.org

Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/ groups/196584422381

The Pilgrim Edward Doty Society

Jeff Given, Governor & Membership Governor@edwarddoty.org PEDS.governor@gmail.com

Eaton Families Association

Doug MacMillan, President dougiemac@comcast.net Membership: Eatongenealogy.com

The Fuller Society

Linda Hoffman, Historian & Membership 42 Sugar Maple Ln, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724 Ishquinter@aol.com

Kathy Dugas, Governor fullersociety@aol.com

Website:

www.thefullersociety.org

Meeting: Oct. 3-6, 2024, Pigeon Forge, TN

Pilgrim Hopkins Heritage Society

Susan Abanor, Governor governor@pilgrimhopkins.com Kenneth Whittemore, Historian P.O. Box 712543 Santee, CA 92072-2543 historian@pilgrimhopkins.com Website:

www.pilgrimhopkins.com

Thomas Rogers Society, Inc.

Steve Rogers 33 Bayberry Road Danvers, MA 01923-1535 978-774-0604 steve@rogersemail.net Website: www.thomasrogerssociety.com

Pilgrim Henry Samson Kindred

Guy Moellendorf, Governor Gvm98042@comcast.net Karen Pogoloff, Registrar Kpogo1@gmail.com Susan Abanor, PHSK DNA Project Leader dna.project@phsk1620.org Website: PilgrimHenrySamsonKindred.org

Contact: PHSKindred@yahoo.com

For information regarding the Samson DNA Project at FamilyTreeDNA, please contact Susan Abanor.

Soule Kindred in America, Inc.

W. Becket Soule, President wbsoule1620@gmail.com Membership:

Andrew.turner@soulekindred.org

Website:

www.soulekindred.org

We will be having a joint meeting with the Delano Kindred on Sept. 13-14, 2024 at Maggie Valley, NC.

Society of Myles Standish Descendants

Charles Willard, Membership Chair smsd@mylesstandishsociety.org

Website:

https://Mylesstandishsociety.org

Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/ groups/1031675716847712

The Warren Cousins

Martin W. Beerman, President 402-709-3786

TheWarrenCousins@gmail.com

Marti Bobertz, Registrar

Marti.bobertz@gmail.com

Website:

www.TheWarrenCousins.com

We will be meeting via Zoom on September 29, 2024. Please contact the president for information.

The Pilgrim William White Society

Patrick White, Governor patrickwhite@email.com

Website:

http://www.thepilgrimwilliamwhitesociety.org

Winslow Heritage Society

Craig Failor, Governor 407 N. Lombard Ave. Oak Park, IL 60302

Winslowheritagesociety1@gmail.com

Website:

http://winslowheritagesociety.org

Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/winslow.heritage.so-ciety/

Mayflower-Related Family Societies

The Society of Descendants of Robert Bartlett of Plymouth, Mass.

James W. Lucas 107 Ellisville Drive Plymouth, MA 02360

historian@bartlettsociety.org

Website:

www.bartlettsociety.com

Meeting: Aug. 23, 2024, Plimoth Plantation; dinner with the Howlands

Delano Kindred

Thomas Delano, President

Website:

www.delanokindred.us

We will be having a joint meeting with the Soule Kindred on Sept. 13-14, 2024 at Maggie Valley, NC. For information: wbsoule1620@gmail.com

Harlow Family Association

Sue Painter, Membership

Harlow.membership@gmail.com

Website:

Harlowfamily.com

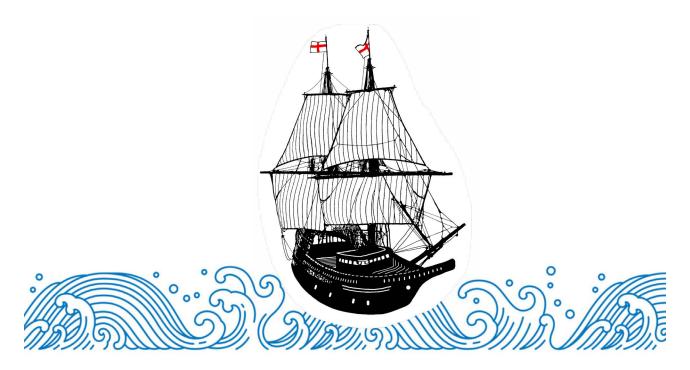
There will be a reunion in Plymouth, MA, August 23-24, 2024.

Nickerson Family Association

Contact: Wmnick1107@gmail.com

P.O. Box 296

North Chatham, MA 02650-0296 Website: https://nickersonassoc.com Meeting: Sept. 6, 2024, Barnstable, MA





Five past Florida Society Governors: (left to right) Ren Cushing, Fran Lopus, George Allerton, Kenneth Carter, Susan Shannon (FSMD Secretary), Edward Sullivan. This picture was taken at the James Chilton Colony Charter, The Villages, 2003. Credit: Kenneth Carter

Pilgrim Word Find

R	Е	В	М	Е	М	Е	R	Υ	R	Α	М
R	Е	S	0	L	٧	Е	D	Т	Н	F	K
Е	L	Н	Т	ш	В	Α	Z	1	L	Е	L
С	F	R	U	D	0	Т	S	L	R	E	М
Ν	R	E	F	Α	Z	Z	U	1	U	٧	Α
Α	Α	Р	D	М	Р	F	S	М	В	0	I
Т	Z	0	С	Α	K	Е	Α	U	Υ	L	L
S	С	0	Z	Ν	D	S	Ν	Н	0	J	L
Ν	1	С	Α	S	U	Ν	Α	Е	С	0	ı
0	S	Н	G	Ν	1	L	Т	S	Е	R	W
С	T	Р	Е	R	Е	G	R	1	N,	Ε	В

Find these words in the puzzle above:

Constance	Humility	Remember
Cooper	John	Resolved
Damans	Love	Samuel
Desire	Mary	Thankful
Elizabeth	Oceanus	William
Francis	Peregrine	Wrestling

As the crossnumber puzzle in the April issue was challenging to complete, in this issue an easier puzzle is offered for your enjoyment. This puzzle is reprinted from *The Florida Pilgrim*, Vol. 29, No. 2, June/July 2004. At the time, Louise Rumnock was the editor.

ANSWERS TO THE APRIL 2024 MAYFLOWER CROSSNUMBER PUZZLE

9		1	6	1	3		1	1		9		1	6	1	2
	2	3	2	1		1	6	2	1		1	6	3	6	
8				1	6	6	1		4	9	9		1	5	0
<i>y</i>	1	6	2	1		9		1	9	4	7			7	2
1	6	2	5		1	1		6	4			2	5		3
	7	1		1	8			7		1	1	1	3		6
1	3			6	2		1	5	9	9		6		1	0
2		1		2	0	2	0			5			1	1	8
	1	6	2	2		1	2		1	6	4	4		2	7
	6	2			1	2		1	6		1	2	8		5
1	2	0	0		1	0		1	6				3	4	
9	4			1	4		1	6	2	1		3		9	5
0			5	4		1	7			9	5	9		9	7
7		1	6		1	8	9	7		3	0		1		8
	4	7		1	6	0	3		6	7		1	8	2	4
2	1		3	8	6			1	6		5	3	8	1	8
2		2	6		1	6	0	8		5	0		1	2	1
0	2	6	5	7		6			1	6	8	7		1	1



NEWS FROM THE COLONIES

In this section, officers from Mayflower colonies throughout Florida report on meetings, projects, and events of potential interest to all Florida Mayflower Society members. Images are contributed by colony members, who retain copyright.

JOHN ALDEN, Fort Lauderdale

Victoria Centorino, Newsletter Correspondent

The John Alden Chapter of Ft. Lauderdale has been a busy group this year. As usual, we've had our Pilgrim Pull with the proceeds going to our Scholarship Fund and the Salvation Army. The proceeds from our silent auction of our unique Love basket, St. Patrick's Day basket, an assortment of yarn basket, wine and chocolate basket, a gardening basket, and a hurricane survival basket, are all going to our colony's 75th Anniversary party this coming November. It should be quite the celebration!

Our colony had one of our own members as its speaker this February. Linda Anderson



Doug Reynolds of the John Alden Colony presents fun facts about the Mayflower and the Pilgrims at Galuppi's Restaurant, Pompano Beach, Florida. Image courtesy of Victoria Centorino, John Alden Colony.

gave a delightful, thorough talk on her husband's and her trip called, "Mayflower 400 Anniversary Trip". The adventure sounded like a must do for every Mayflower descendant! She discussed where some of the passengers' hometowns were when they left for Plymouth, MA and where they went to church in England. Linda also went to The Netherlands where the passengers sought refuge from religious persecution and where the Mayflower Museum is still located today. Also, they saw where the Mayflower voyage set sail in Southampton.

In April, we had a guest speaker who played a game with us for the program. We were given questions related to the Mayflower ship and passengers and the one who answered the most questions correctly won. He had some very detailed questions and some us were very happy that the questions were multiple choice! We look forward to seeing everyone soon.

STEPHEN HOPKINS, Vero Beach

Carolyn "Lynne" Jensen, Colony Governor

Stephen Hopkins Colony has embraced the suggestions in The *Mayflower Quarterly* magazine, Summer 2024, by Governor General Lisa Pennington and by Executive Director Mark Schmidt to honor the American Revolution 250th Anniversary by joining the Mayflower Society to celebrate Revolution 250! We will begin by telling our stories at meetings and in our Colony Newsletters.

In our current Stephen Hopkins Colony Summer 2024 issue, Nan Ball wrote in her Mayflower Tidbits column, "The Revolutionary War and Mayflower Descendants," about her Revolutionary War Ancestor, Benjamin Brewster (1736-1786):

The Boston Port Act, established by Eng-



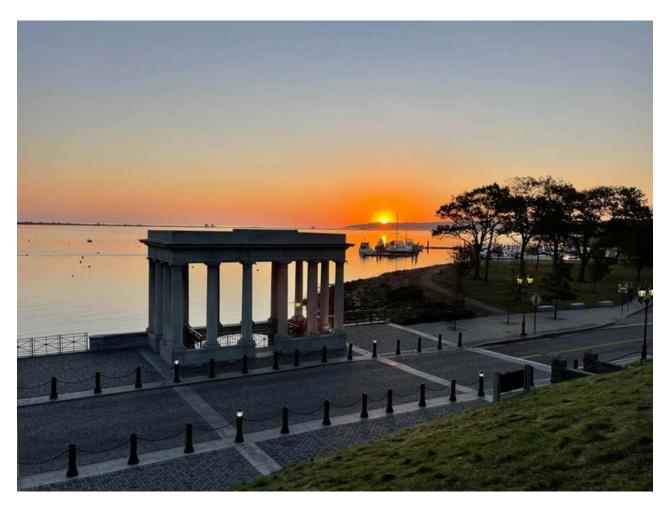
Linda Anderson of the John Alden Colony speaks on "Mayflower 400 Anniversary Trip." Image courtesy of Victoria Centorino.

land's Parliament, went into effect June of 1774 and closed down Boston Harbor. This Act was a result of the Boston Tea Party and was accompanied by the demand for reparations for the tea loss and property damages. The Boston Port Act, along with the Intolerable Acts, would serve to put the War of Independence into motion.

The colonies began to forge together as a union by financially supporting Boston's residents who had relied on income from the Boston ports, boycotting British goods, stockpiling weapons, reviewing local militia readiness, and calling the meeting of the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

Benjamin Brewster was born in Preston, New London, CT 15 April 1736. He was a 1st Lieutenant and served under Captain William Belcher, also of Preston, and Colonel Samuel Selden. In an attempt to protect New York City and Long Island in September of 1776, Colonel Selden was tasked to defend New York Island at Kips Bay, located on the east shore of Manhattan. The regiment was spread along the Kips Bay area and Lt. Benjamin Brewster was stationed with his men at the Stuyvesant mansion. However, General Howe launched a naval attack and the patriots were quickly

routed. During their retreat, the regiment was confronted by a large body of Hessians, and after a skirmish, the surviving patriots were taken prisoner. The Livingston Sugar House, one of several sugar houses in Manhattan, was previously used to store sugar and molasses. Sugar houses and churches were used by the British as makeshift prisons to house prisoners of war, and the Livingston was supervised by a particularly cruel British officer named Sergeant Waddy. The prison area was open to the weather, they were given little to eat, subject to reported cruelty and beatings, and suffered from sickness. Benjamin Brewster survived his ordeal and died in Preston, CT in 1786. He was 50 years old.



Sunrise over Plymouth Harbor, Massachusetts, with Plymouth Rock in the foreground, May 18, 2024. Credit: Lisa Pennington



The Richard Warren Colony continues its Mayflower t-shirt campaign.

Are you tired of wearing stiff linen breeches and scratchy wool doublets in the Florida heat? Not to worry. The Richard Warren Colony invites all Florida Mayflower enthusiasts to pack away your New England winter wear and dress as a Pilgrim might have (wanted to), had the Mayflower landed on the Florida shore in 1620. No longer is it necessary to wear 17th century reenactment attire year-round to demonstrate your faithfulness to the Pilgrim story. You can now dress like an authentic Mayflower descendant (or even a Mayfollower) while staying cool in the hottest Florida weather by sporting one of these spiffy Mayflower t-shirts, designed by the Richard Warren Colony. Proceeds benefit the Colony's educational and service activities. Just go to: https://www.bonfire.com/florida-society-of-mayflower-descendants/

Future Meeting Dates

2024 - Fall Annual GSMD BoA Meeting - September 5-8, 2024, Asheville, NC

2024 – John Alden Colony 75th Anniversary Celebration, November 16, Deerfield Beach

2024 – Fall Annual FSMD Meeting – November 22-23, 2024

Hosted by the Myles Standish Colony, Estero

Embassy Suites Hotel, 10450 Corkscrew Commons Dr.

Friday, November 22 – Banquet and Program

A traditional Thanksgiving buffet dinner

A surprise visit by Captain Myles Standish and his friends

A musical concert based on Henry Ainsworth's Book of Psalms

Traditional Mayflower attire is welcome but not mandatory

Saturday, November 23

9 a.m. Board of Assistants Meeting

10 a.m. General Membership Meeting

Registration deadline: October 22

For more information, contact Ann Kremer at standishcolony@yahoo.com

2025 – Spring FSMD BoA Meeting ~ April 26, 2025

Hosted by the Edward Fuller Colony, Lakeland

2025 – Fall Annual FSMD Meeting - November 22, 2025

Tentatively to be hosted by the William Bradford Colony

2026 – Spring FSMD BoA Meeting – April 25, 2026

2026 – Fall Annual FSMD Meeting - November 20-21, 2026

Hosted by the Stephen Hopkins Colony, Vero Beach

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The Florida Pilgrim is a digital newsletter distributed to FSMD members by their colony governors. We are exploring ways to make the newsletter downloadable in the future from the FSMD website at www.flmayflower.com.

Members of FSMD, please send submissions, comments, or suggestions to the editor at the email listed below. Items submitted for publication may be edited and published at the editor's discretion. Images should be accompanied by identification of all persons depicted so that an appropriate caption can be included. Sister Mayflower societies have permission to reprint any material herein with appropriate attribution. All others must obtain prior written permission from the editor.

All published items represent the opinions of their authors and not necessarily of FSMD, which does not vouch for the accuracy of any information contained herein. William P. Cheshire, Editor mayflowercheshire@gmail.com



Membership Benefits

- Floridians receive a subscription to *The Florida Pilgrim*, the digital newsletter of the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants, published three times a year
- Subscription to *The Mayflower Quarterly*, a genealogical magazine published in print by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants four times a year
- Free use of the genealogical collection in the Mayflower Library located at the Mayflower Society headquarters at the historic Edward Winslow House in Plymouth, MA
- Fellowship and camaraderie of fellow genealogical enthusiasts at Colony, Florida Society, and General Society meetings
- Junior memberships at nominal cost for members' children and grandchildren, which they can convert to regular memberships between ages of 18 and 25
- Eating Thanksgiving dinner twice, if you attend the fall meeting

Objectives of the Mayflower Society

- To perpetuate to remote posterity the memory of our Pilgrim Fathers.
- To maintain and defend the principle of civil and religious liberty as set forth in the Compact of the Mayflower, "For the glorie of God, and advancement of the Christian faith and honor of our countrie."
- To cherish and maintain the ideals and institutions of American Freedom, and to oppose any theory or actions that threaten their continuity.
- To transmit the spirit, the purity of purpose, and steadfastness of will of the Pilgrim Fathers to those who shall come after us, an undiminished heritage of liberty and law.





www.flmayflower.com