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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

William P. Cheshire, Editor

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Recreation of Plymouth Colony, Plimoth Patuxet Museum, Plymouth MA, 2019. Credit: Bill Cheshire

MESSAGE FROM OUR GOVERNOR

As my term as your State Society Governor comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank each of you for your support. The past three years have been an unprecedented period of significant changes, not only for our organization, but for our country and for many of us personally. We have endured a deadly worldwide pandemic, a lockdown of our lives with still unfolding economic, social, educational, physical, and mental consequences. Our Society lost two of its state officers: Hank Dressel, Treasurer; and Vaughn Brennan, Counselor. Yet, like our Mayflower ancestors, we persevered in the face of hardship and personal loss.

During this time, you as individual members of Colonies throughout the state, continued to educate and inform your communities about the Pilgrim Story through a variety of activities and efforts. Our hardworking Historians processed over over 1,000 new and supplemental applications; our total membership numbers surpassed 1,700. In addition to our long-established scholarships, two new educational excellence scholarships, the Edward Sullivan and the Dorothy Faxon Waters scholarships, were made possible through direct donations from their respective families. These Mayflower scholarships have awarded thousands of dollars to outstanding graduating seniors from Florida's Mayflower families. Our Society provided monetary awards to middle and high school children statewide for researching and developing top-scoring History Fair projects. The Mayflower Juniors Program absolutely blossomed during this time period, maintaining around 1,000 young Pilgrims each year. Our Society's resource library has been expanded and made available online; the Society's website and Colony pages have been updated and revamped. Our ultimate guiding documents, the Constitution/Bylaws and Officers Handbook, underwent extensive research and professional updating…and so much more!



My most heartfelt gratitude goes to my wonderful fellow Officers and Committee members…all of these accomplishments were the direct result of your efforts—well done!

To the new administration, you have my best wishes and my continued support.

To all of our Mayflower cousins and friends, I leave you with this old nautical travel blessing: may you have "Fair Winds and Following Seas" on all your future adventures.

Suzanne Adams
FSMD Governor 2020-2023





THE THREAD OF HISTORY

Be Thankful That Textiles Have Changed the Fabric of Living

by Virginia Postrel

In February, I had the pleasure of giving a Zoom lecture on my book, *The Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Made the World,* to the Mayflower Society and, as a result, reconnecting with my Princeton classmate Bill Cheshire. At his initiative, I'm happy to share an article I originally wrote as a Thanksgiving feature in 2020.

To mark the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims' voyage, the *Mayflower II* at Plimoth Plantation in Massachusetts has undergone a three-year refurbishment. It's the first major overhaul since the replica was built in the 1950s. Along with new framing and decks, the ship has a new set of sails, created by a specialty sailmaker called Traditional Rigging.

The sails look and feel authentic. But there's a big difference between the 21st-century versions and the 17th-century originals. The modern fabric is a synthetic that behaves like traditional canvas but keeps

Image: A thread of flax seen under the microscope

its shape and resists sun damage. It will last significantly longer than the linen and hemp used in the Pilgrims' day, and it took less time to make. Much, much less time.

"We can't make cloth," says sailmaker Dayle Tognoni Ward of Traditional Rigging. "That's where we hold the line." Exactly duplicating 17th-century cloth would be prohibitively expensive.

The original Mayflower's sails were probably woven with around 30 threads to the inch in each direction. If, like the replica, they used 3,800 square feet of fabric, they would have taken nearly a million yards of yarn. Before the Industrial Revolution, just spinning that much yarn required about two years of work. That doesn't include the laborious process of harvesting and preparing the plant fibers. Nor does it include weaving on looms powered entirely by the weavers' muscles.

The *Mayflower II*'s sails remind us of a blessing we rarely acknowledge on Thanksgiving, a holiday devoted to appreciating abundance: all the textiles in our lives.

Our closets and drawers bulge with clothing in every imaginable color. Thanks to incremental improvements over the past few decades, our clothes resist stains and wrinkles in ways that would thrill the past's laundry-weary housewives. T-shirts wick sweat, and raincoats shed water. Sweaters snap back into shape, and pants stretch with our bellies—a handy feature come Thanksgiving dinner.

Today's textile cornucopia overflows with more than clothes. It includes the damask tablecloth beneath the Thanksgiving feast, the soft microfiber blanket in front of the fire, the potholders pulling dinner from the oven, the dish towels drying the heirloom china. Textiles upholster the dining room chairs and the football fans' sofa cushions. They bandage the careless carver's fingers. They furnish burlap wreaths and felt garlands, and, for those who prefer an autumnal escape to nature, backpacks, sleeping bags, and tents.

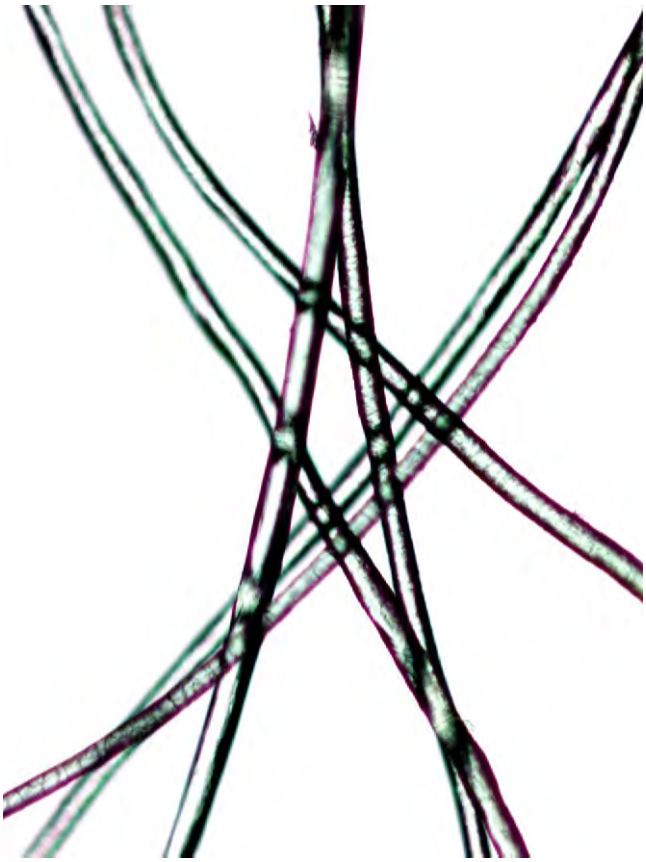
If, as Arthur C. Clarke famously observed, "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic,"[1] the reverse is also true. Any sufficiently familiar technology is indistinguishable from nature. We no more imagine a world without cloth than one without sunlight or rain. Textiles are just there.

Except they aren't. "Bring good store of clothes, and bedding with you," an early Plymouth arrival advised a prospective colonist in 1621.[2] Textiles weren't easily procured in the wilds of Massachusetts.

It is only in the past century, and especially in the past generation, that most Americans could forget where cloth comes from. Once so valuable they were stolen from clothes lines and passed down in wills,[3] textile products now occupy only a tiny fraction of household budgets.

Cloth was precious because it took so much effort to make. Throughout history, and around the globe, women spent their days spinning. Yet yarn was always in short supply. In 1656, Massachusetts even passed a law[4] requiring every family with "idle hands"—women and children who weren't

1 Footnote in Clarke's *Profiles of the Future: An Inquiry into the Limits of the Possible.* New York: Harper & Row, revised edition, 1973.
2 Edward Winslow, "Advice to Colonists to New England, 1621," in: Ernest Ludlow Bogart. *Readings in the Economic History of the United States*, New York: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1916.
3 Miles Lambert, Death and Memory: Clothing Bequests in English Wills, 1650-1830. *Costume* 2014, Vol. 14, Issue 1, 2014.
4 Kax Wilson, Textiles and Independence in Colonial America. Oxfordshire, UK: Routledge, 1979.



Wool fibers under the microscope

otherwise employed—to spin a minimum amount of yarn, with fines levied on those who didn't make their quotas.

"The spinners never stand still for want of work; they always have it if they please; but weavers sometimes are idle for want of yarn," wrote the 18th-century agronomist and travel author Arthur Young, reporting on a tour of northern England.[5] It took about 20 spinners to keep a single weaver supplied with yarn.[6]

A few decades after Young wrote, spinning machines[7] broke the bottleneck and sparked the Industrial Revolution. Abundant yarn improved nearly every aspect of life. From clothing to sails, bed linens to flour sacks, essential items were suddenly much cheaper, more varied, and more easily obtained. It was the beginning of what economic historian Deirdre McCloskey calls "the Great Enrichment,"[8] the economic takeoff that over the next two centuries lifted global living standards by 3,000 percent.

Power looms followed,[9] triumphing despite resistance from the displaced Luddites.[10] Joseph-Marie Jacquard invented a loom attachment that used punch cards to store and automate weaving patterns.[11] Now often credited as a precursor of digital computers, it put brocades and damasks, formerly reserved for the rich, within reach of the middle class and boosted the production of plain cloth as well.

In the mid-19th-century synthetic dyes gave birth to the chemical industry,[12] followed by synthetic fibers in the 20th.[13] Now researchers are pursuing ways to embed sensors and computing power into thread, to bioengineer protein-based polymers, and to reduce the environmental side effects of textile abundance. So ubiquitous are textiles that if you change cloth, you change the world.

This Thanksgiving, let's be grateful for the countless diligent and clever people who gave us textile plenty: the breeders who over millennia turned hairy sheep,

5 Arthur Young, *A Six Months Tour through the North of England, Vol. III*. Edinburgh: W. Strahan, etc., 1770, p. 212.

6 Virginia Postrel. The World-Changing Technology of Textiles. *The Wall Street Journal*, October 23, 2020.

7 Elias Beck, Spinning Jenny Invention in the Industrial Revolution. History Crunch, August 8, 2019.

8 Deirdre nansen McCloskey. The Great Enrichment: Came and Comes from Ethics and Rhetoric, not dated.

9 Elias Beck, Power Loom Invention in the Industrial Revolution. History Crunch, August 8, 2019.

10 Evan Andres. Who Were the Luddites? History (A&E Television Networks), August 7, 2015.

11 1801: Punched Cards Control Jacquard Loom. Computer History Museum.

12 Sam Vettese Forster and Robert M. Christie, The significance of the introduction of synthetic dyes in the mid-19th century on the democratisation of Western fashion. Journal of the International Colour Association 2013; 11, 1017.

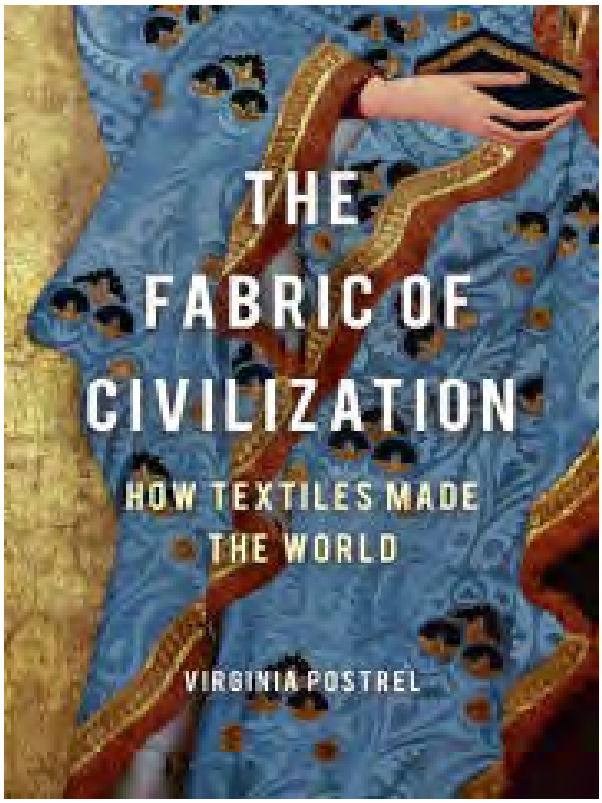
13 Hillary S. Kativa. Synthetic threads: Synthetic fibers not only changed the fashion industry; they changed how women lived their lives. *Distillations Magazine,* October 3, 2016.

flax stalks, caterpillar cocoons, and barely fuzzy cotton seeds into luxuriant sources of fiber; the inventors and engineers who developed machines that spin, weave, and knit at incredible speed; and the dyers who experimented with plants, animals, and waste chemicals to imbue fabric with brilliant colors. Taking textile abundance for granted is a privilege. Appreciating its wonder is a blessing.

© Virginia Postrel, used with permission. This article originally ran in USA Today three years ago, shortly after publication of my book The Fabric of Civilization.



Virginia Postrel is a visiting fellow at the Smith Institute for Political Economy and Philosophy at Chapman University in Orange, California, and a contributing editor at WorksInProgress.co. She writes a newsletter at vpostrel.substack.com.



EDITOR'S POSTSCRIPT

I am grateful to Virginia for sharing with the readers of *The Florida Pilgrim* her wonderful article about the ways in which textile technology shaped the Pilgrims' experience in 1620.

At Princeton, she and I took our meals at Charter Club, and after graduation our paths diverged until now as our complementary interests in history converged at the Mayflower. Interested readers may wish to watch her interview online through the link on the next page.

If reading this has caused you to want to don wool and linen in 17th century style, see our article on page 15 and also the Mayflower Society tips on how to dress like an Pilgrim at: Dress Like a Pilgrim

Bill Cheshire

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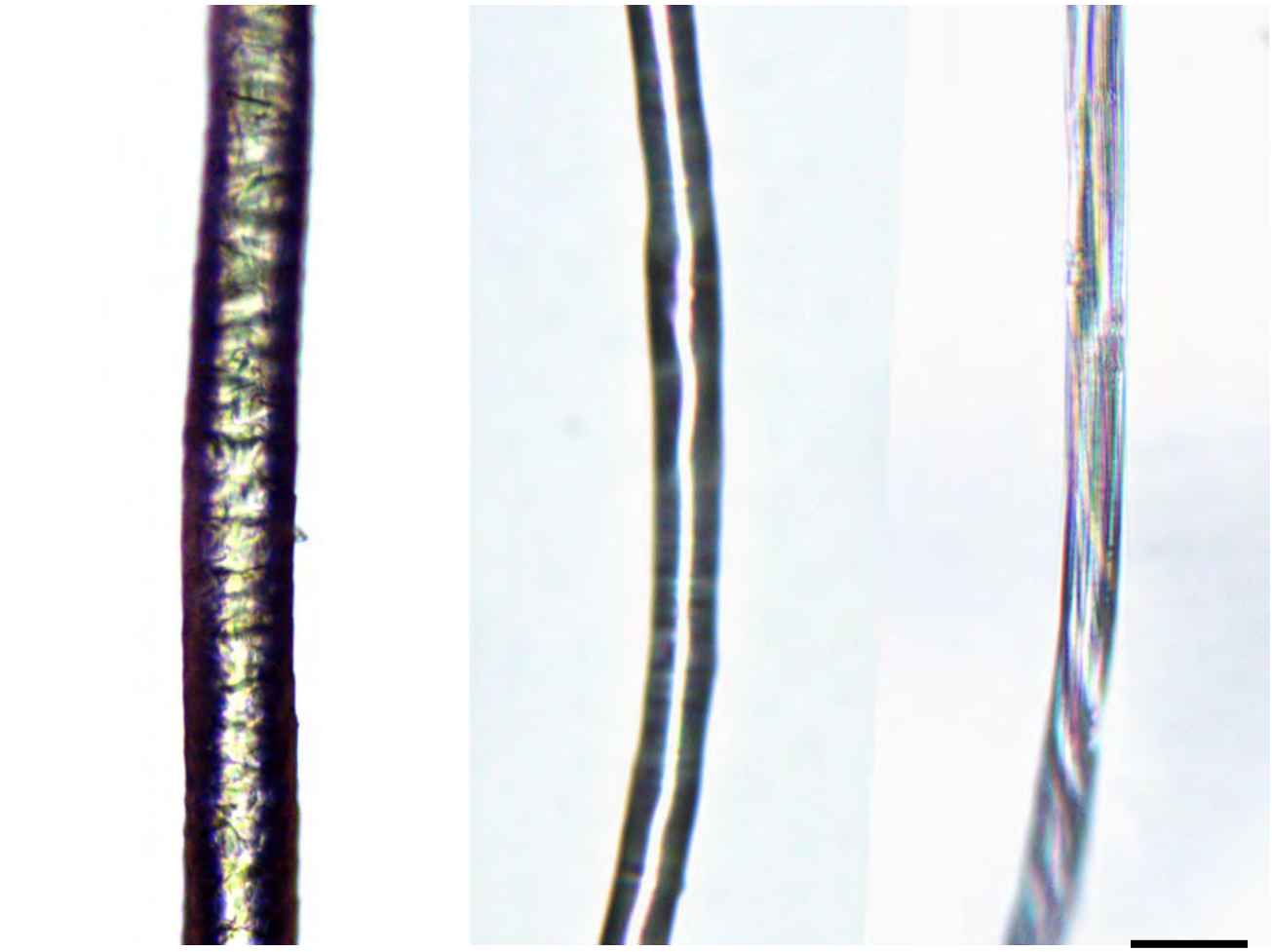
The Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Made the World

Presenter: Virginia Postrel

Host: Mark Schmidt, GSMD Executive Director

Passcode: nkSG^7h3

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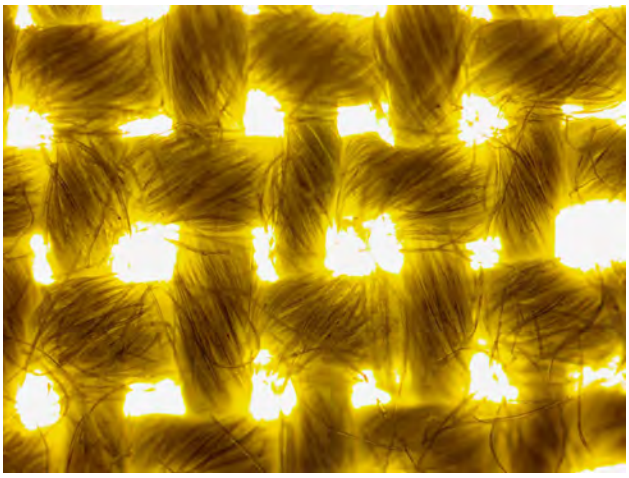
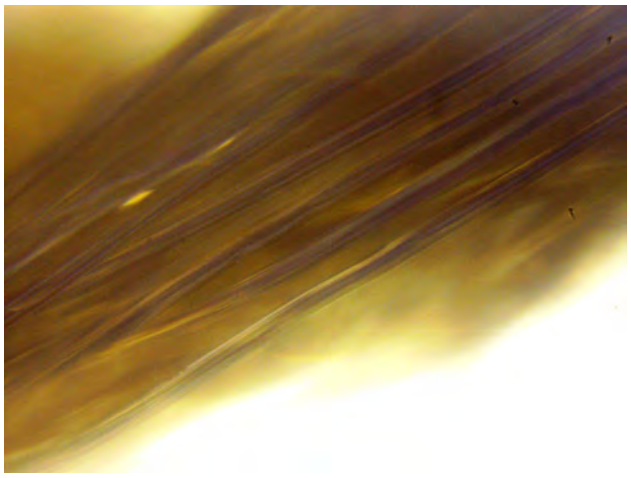


Can You Identify These Fabric Fibers?

by William P. Cheshire

The fine details of clothing fibers, when examined under the microscope of Florida Mayflower Society member Laura Cheshire, reveal the structural features that underlie their fabrics' properties. From left to right: (A) **Wool** fibers have along their surface a series of overlapping scales that enable them to lock with one another, confering strength. This interlocking also traps air within the fabric, keeping the wearer warm. Whereas the fiber's surface repels water, its core is able to absorb moisture. Wool contains 10%-35% by weight of water, depending on the relative humidity of the environment. As all of the water is within its internal structure, wool fabric feels dry and comfortable, even when the weather is damp, and this natural absorbency of water renders it resistant to wrinkles and fire. Wool fabric, which is obtained from sheep and other mammals, is resilient. When discarded, it biodegrades rapidly, making it eco-friendly.

In the center is (B) **linen**, which is made from flax, a soft and flexible fiber extracted from the stem of the flowering plant *Linum*



usitatissimum.[1] Linen textile is naturally blonde in color and is strong and durable, as its cell wall has a highly crystalline cellulose structure, its polymers lying nearly parallel to the fiber axis. Despite its stiff feeling when worn, linen is comfortable in hot weather, as it allows air to breathe freely. Unlike wool, it easily wrinkles, and as it is derived from plants, it is not subject to damage by moths. Cultivation of flax requires very little fertilization and pesticide treatment. Unless treated with dyes, softeners, or finishes, flax is fully biodegradable. All four images above are flax linen fibers.

On the right is (C) **cotton**, which has the appearance of a twisted ribbon. Cotton fibers are harvested from the flowering plant *Gossyplum*. Cotton fabric is comfortable, being naturally soft, breathable, and absorbent. Cotton can hold water 25 times its own weight. Being plant-derived, cotton is completely biodegradable.

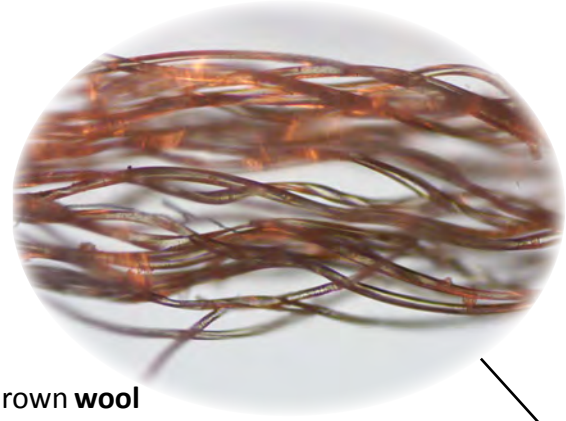
It is illegal to grow wild cotton in Florida because the plant is a potential host to the boll weevil, a danger to commercial cotton agriculture.

United States dollar bills are a blend of 75% cotton and 25% linen, as these fibers are stronger than ordinary paper and resist softening by water.

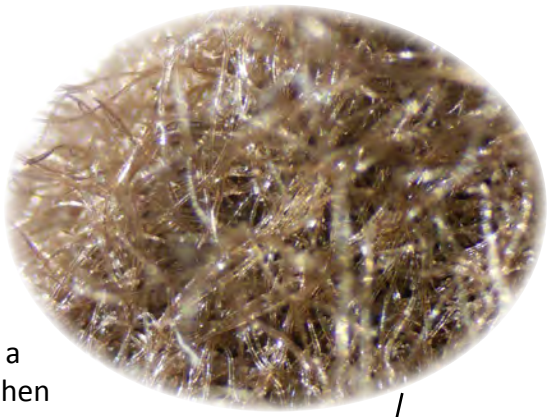
Synthetic fabrics (not shown here) such as polyester, polypropylene, nylon, and polyethylene cannot be degraded by microorganisms. Their shed fibers contribute to microfiber pollution of the environment, particularly the oceans.

1 New England flax and linen

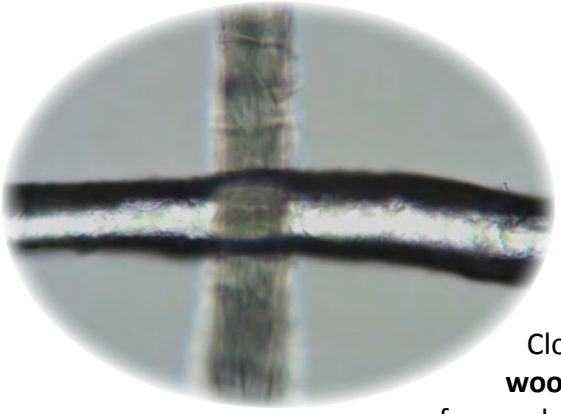
A Closer Look at Pilgrim Fabrics



Light brown **wool** fibers of a doublet show their natural crimp that creates pockets of air, insulating the wearer from cold weather.



The smooth surface of a felt hat, when viewed under the microscope, is seen to be a network of shiny, translucent **wool** fibers.

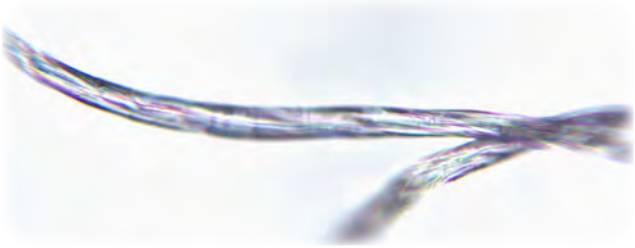


Closer examination of **wool** fibers shows their surface scales that enable them to lock with one another, giving the fabric strength.



Flax fibers from linen breeches have a stiff feel yet are cool in summer, as the fabric allows air to flow through freely.

Cotton fibers under the microscope look like a twisted ribbon. This is how to recognize the gentleman as an actor and not an actual pilgrim, as cotton was very expensive in the 17th century.



Mayflower passengers would have worn wool stockings. The palm trees in the background and the fact that photography hadn't yet been invented are additional clues that this is not an actual picture of a Mayflower passenger.



DID PILGRIMS WEAR BLACK?

by William P. Cheshire

New England winters are icy cold. Recommended winter wear for tourists and university students in the 21st century includes heavy woolen clothing, sweaters for layering, a long windproof coat stuffed with goose down, a merino wool cap, a scarf, fleece-lined gloves, thermal underwear, thick wool socks, and warm waterproof boots with good traction. Modern luxuries were, of course, unavailable to the Pilgrims when they stepped ashore in Massachusetts in the fall of 1620. William Bradford wrote that "The weather was very cold, and it froze so hard as the spray of the sea lighting on their coats, they were as if they had been glazed."[1] So, what did they wear in this chilly, blustering climate?



Edward Winslow (1595-1655)
Portrait circa 1651, London
Artist unknown. Credit: Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, MA. Image in public domain

Popular images of Pilgrims dressed in black and wearing metal buckles on their hats and belts are historically inaccurate and trace to 19th century Victorian embellishments. Depictions of Pilgrims in black clothing may have been inspired by the 1651 portrait of Edward Winslow in which he is dressed in black. This painting is the only surviving authentic likeness of a Mayflower passenger.

Black is the most difficult color to apply to fabric, as it washes out easily and fades over time. In the 17th century, black dye was produced from barks and roots containing tannins, such as alder, walnut, and chestnut. A rich black color could be fixed to fabric (a process called mordanting) with iron salts, which was an imperfect solution, being corrosive to the fabric. The best results at the time of the Mayflower took a great deal of skill and were achieved by dipping the fabric in a woad or indigo bath, which gave the cloth a blue undertone, and then overdying it with madder (a red dye) on an alum mordant.[2]

For these reasons, black clothing in the 17th century was set aside as one's best outfit and reserved for formal occasions, such as having a portrait painted. We now know that the Pilgrims dressed in colorful earth tones, such as green, brown, red, blue, and yellow, as well as clothes that shone with the natural hues of the cloth.[3] [4]

1 William Bradford. Of Plimoth Plantation, Chapter X.

2 Paula Hohti. Exploring historical blacks. Refashioning the Renaissance, February 21, 2019.

3 Mayflower clothing

4 The Curious Quilter. The Fabrics of a Pilgrim's Life. November 25, 2010

DRESS LIKE A PILGRIM

by Carolyn Alden

So what exactly did the Pilgrims wear? The portrait of Governor Edward Winslow shown in the previous article is the only known live rendition of a Pilgrim. Very few other portraits or fabric remnants remain from the Pilgrims, but we have some idea of what they wore from the written inventories of their belongings left at the time of their death. For example, when William Brewster, the Plymouth church's elder, died, he left behind green pants, a violet coat, a blue suit, and a red cap. So we know that, generally speaking, the Pilgrims in Plymouth Colony wore the same clothing they had worn in England but that their outfits were modified for the harsh New England weather and for their arduous work in building a colony in the New World. Their clothing and the colors they wore were also greatly influenced by their time, having lived in Leiden before their voyage to the New World. Popular colors for Pilgrims' clothing ranged from blue, green, or lavender, to brown. Because it was the most difficult and expensive color to create, black was rarely used, and then only for very formal occasions.





These dapper gentlemen, David Burgess and Jacob Walters of the Myles Standish Colony, are shown modeling popularized depictions of what the Pilgrims actually did not wear.

In Leiden, many of the Pilgrims became interested in weaving and the making of fabric and the use of colors, which was greatly influenced by the colors used by the Dutch in their clothing. For example,

- Edward Tilley was a cloth maker
- John Tilley was a silk worker
- Francis Cooke and William White were wool combers or carders
- Isaac Allerton and James Chilton were tailors
- William Bradford was a fustian maker, and in Leiden he was a member of the fustian weavers' guild that met in the former chapel of St. Jacob's Hospital
- Digory Priest was a hatter
- William Mullins wa a boot and shoe merchant

- Thomas Rogers was a camlet merchant
- John Carver, John Turner, and Richard Warren were also engaged in the textile industry

The Pilgrims' clothing was made of linen, wool, or leather and was dyed using plants, leaves, berries, roots, barks, and nutshells. Most of their clothing was obtained from England during the early years, since the Pilgrims were too busy trying to survive to spend time making their clothes, although they did eventually begin to plant the crops they would need to make their own clothing. From the very beginning, flax was an indispensable source of fabric for the Pilgrims. For example, the sails of the Mayflower were made of flax canvas. Flax creates a long-wearing, durable and strong cloth. In England, the importance of having flax on hand to process into thread for sewing or weaving into cloth is reflected in the law created in the 16th century requiring the cultivation of a quarter acre of flax for every 60 acres under cultivation.

In Plimoth Plantation, William Bradford knew that the Colony would eventually have to become self-reliant. So, in 1639, the Plymouth Colony passed a requirement that "every house holder sow one rodd of ground square at least with hemp or flax yearly."[1] Textile production was a laborious process that began with sowing the seeds for flax in early spring, harvesting the stalks, and preparing the linen fibers for spinning into cloth.

1 Plymouth Colony Records, XI, Part 1, p. 32, June 4, 1639.

Before flax can be made into linen cloth, it must go through several steps. First, it must be carded, which is done by putting the raw flax strings between two paddle-like "cards" with several short, hard, metal spikes sticking out of them. The two cards are moved back and forth across the raw flax between the metal spikes until the bark and stems are removed and the raw flax strings are all going in the same direction.



Carolyn Alden and Christel Walters

Then, the strings must be spun into thread on a spinning wheel. The straightened strings are twisted together as the wheel spins until they all form a long rope-like thread.

The thread is then dyed using colors obtained from the seeds, berries, bark, and plants that grew abundantly in Plymouth Colony. For example, yellow was derived from the leaves and stems of the weld plant, red from the roots of the madder plant, orange from saffron, and a rich blue from the leaves of the woad plant. Black and brown were incredibly difficult colors

to dye, which is why they were primarily used in formal attire.

Finally, the different colored threads are woven into simple or complex patterns on a loom to create a piece of cloth. And the cloth is sewn into garments.

At the March 2023 meeting of our Myles Standish Colony, several members modeled authentic Pilgrim attire:

In the image on the previous page, Christel Walters, dressed as Susannah White, is wearing the basic outfit that a Pilgrim woman would have worn as she went about her day of doing chores in Plymouth Colony. Underneath her clothes, she is wearing a long smock or shift, which is a smooth linen shirt worn against the skin. Because this is the only piece of her clothing that actually touches her skin, she changes it often to keep it clean. She is wearing a linen waistcoat and linen petticoat (perhaps two or three on a cold day), which is covered with a long linen apron to keep her clothes clean as she works. Her petticoat not only keeps her warm but also protects her from the heat of the fire and sparks that might land on her clothing. Around her neck, she is wearing a linen kerchief. And on her head, she is wearing a coif to cover her hair, which is securely tied under her chin. Christel wears a coif because *2nd Corinthians* instructs women to cover their heads for modesty. On her feet she is wearing sturdy leather lancets, or shoes.

Nancy Ratner (on the right) is dressed as Alice Carpenter. As the wife of Governor William Bradford, she is a bit more formally attired than her friend Susannah as she goes about her day in Plymouth Village. Under her clothes, she, too, is wearing a long linen smock or nightgown that goes from her neck to her ankles and which, in her case, is embellished with embroidery. On top of her smock she is wearing a linen skirt called a petticoat (or two, depending on the weather). Her petticoat is topped with a woolen bodice with a linen lining that is tied with ribbon. To keep her clothes clean as she goes about her daily chores, Nancy is wearing a long linen apron. And on her head is a coif to cover her hair in modesty, as well as a felt hat to protect her from the sun as she works in the fields. Around her neck she wears a wide linen collar, which adds a decorative look to her bodice. Around her waist she is wearing a girdle from which her purse hangs. Garters tied at her knees hold up her knee-length wool stockings. (Not all of this is depicted in the image of her at the registration table.)

Bev Duncan (next page, right) is dressed as Elder William Brewster and is wearing a linen shirt that goes from his neck to his feet, which he uses as a nightgown. In the morning, he tucks his shirt into his linen waistcoat and baggy, knee-length



linen breeches. Because he wears no belt, his breeches are tied to his doublet with ribbon or knitted strings. His breeches are gathered below the knees with a drawstring or ribbon and tied with a bow. Around his knees he wears a garter to hold up his knee-



length wool stockings. On his feet he wears sturdy leather shoes, or lancets. Around his neck is a formal ruff, which protects his neck from dirt and debris, and on his head is a felt hat to protect him from the sun as he works in the fields.

Our program concluded with a demonstration by a weaver from Castle Creek Studios in Naples, FL, who exhibited uncarded, carded, and woven flax and explained how the flax would have been woven by the Pilgrims.



Carolyn E. Alden
Vice Governor, Myles Standish Colony

THE PILGRIM WOOL AND LINEN SPINNING WHEELS FOR YARN-MAKING

by the late Richard Lorin Husband Sr. (1931-1997) of Rochester, Minnesota, then editor of *The Mayflower Quarterly* and a descendant of William Brewster. His gravestone in Oakwood Cemetery reads, "He lived the life of a Renaissance man."

After twelve years in Holland as weavers, carders, and fustians (fabric makers), the Pilgrims had an exceptional background in the spinning of wool and flax yarns into fabric for their sundry needs. Besides the household skills of the Colony women, many of the men had professional experiences. These were William Bradford, who was a fustian maker; James Chilton, a tailor; John Tilley, a silk worker; William White, a wool carder; and Francis Cooke, who was a wool and flax comber.



Figure 1. Wool card

In the process of making wool yarn, the sheered fleece was first washed, although some homes made yarn that was unwashed or "in the grease," which was the addition of up to three pounds of swine's fat or rape oil[1] for every ten pounds of wool. It was thought to be better if the wool was washed while still on the sheep, using the local brook or pond. This method, it was reported, kept more of the natural sheep oil in the wool.

Using the Wool Card (Fig. 1) with wire teeth and mounted through a piece of leather and nailed onto a board, a person stroked the two cards together in a parallel fashion until the fibers would be straightened and aligned. The combs used for flax were called "hetchels" that had wire teeth sometimes more than an inch long because of the tough plant fibers. "Hackling" of flax was a dirty and dusty job compared to wool carding.

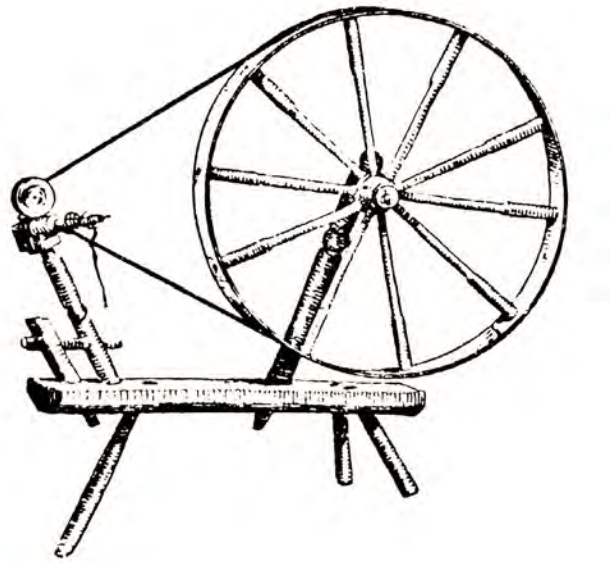


Figure 2. Wool-spinning wheel

The whorl of wool fiber would then be applied to the small spindle of a Wool Spinning Wheel (Fig. 2). The large wheel was used as a power fly-wheel and turned

1 An oil extracted from the rape seed (*Brassica napus*) in the Old World annual and biennial herbs of the family *Cruciferae* that resembles the rutabaga (*napobrassica*), but also includes the varieties of broccoli, mustard, cabbage, brussel sprouts, cauliflower, kale, and turnips (*rapa*).

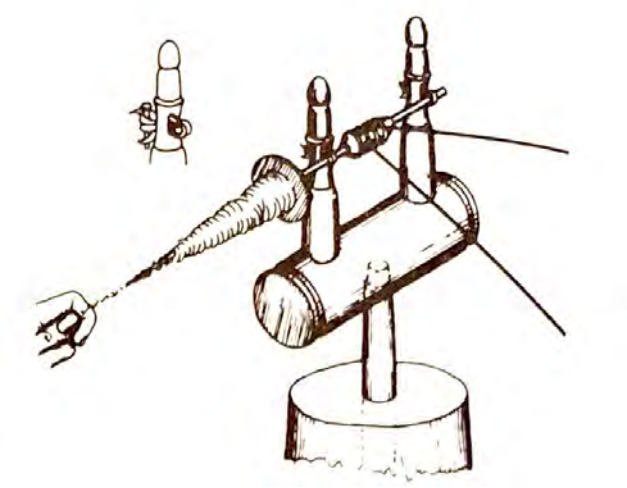


Figure 3. Spindle and wheel-head

the "spindle" on the "wheel head" (Fig. 3) at the other end at a much higher speed. The Flax Spinning Wheel (Fig. 4) had a foot treadle that freed both hands for working the fiber: Note the whorl of flax on the distaff. Leonardo da Vinci is credited for this improvement in the late 15th century.

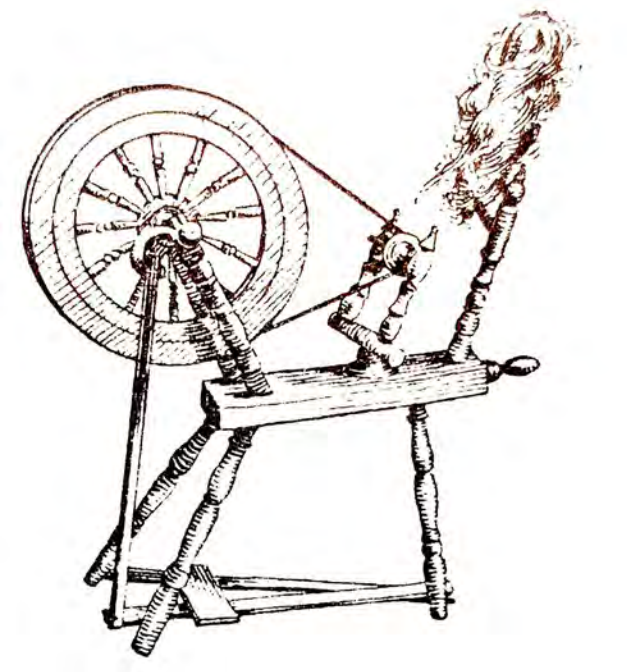


Figure 4. Flax-spinning wheel with a foot dreadle

The yarn was then collected and stored on a "Niddy-Noddy" (Fig. 5) where one wrapping was approximately two yards in length. An old English rhyme, sometimes with a tune, was sung to the rhythm with the hum of the wheel that sounded like the echo of the wind:

Niddy, noddy, niddy noddy
two heads, one body,
Here's one, 'taint one,
twill be one, bye and bye,
Here's two, 'taint two,
twill be two, bye and bye, etc.

After 80 yards was spun, a knot was tied. Seven knots made a "skein" of an approximate 560 yards. A good "spinster" could produce six skeins of wool or two skeins of linen a day. When working the treadle a homemaker could accomplish the equivalent of walking over 20 miles a day. In the 18th century there were mechanical models called Skein Winders that enabled a yarn-maker to more accurately measure the skein lengths.

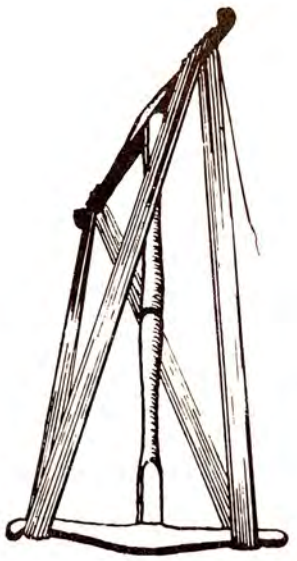


Figure 5. Niddy-Noddy

A "Swift" (Fig. 6), known since the early 15th century in Italy, was another storage unit to keep the yarns for either washing, bleaching, dyeing, or to be mounted on the bobbins for the weaver or yarn balls for the knitters. Bleaching was often done with slacked line or buttermilk. The Pilgrim models were usually made of wood. The beautifully carved ivory and whalebone swifts of the 18th century can be seen in the Peabody Museum in Salem and the Whaling Museum

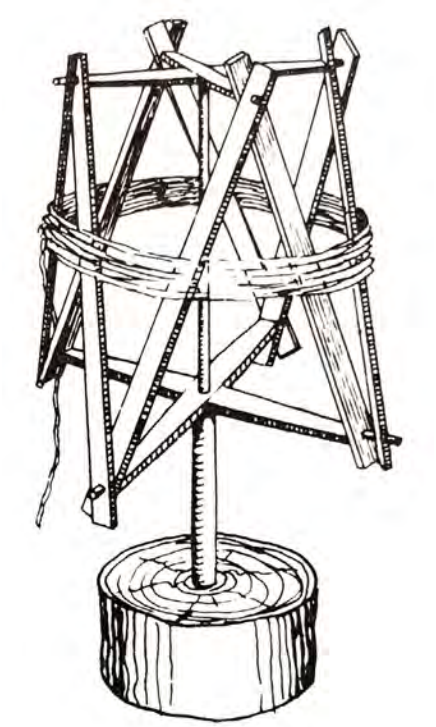


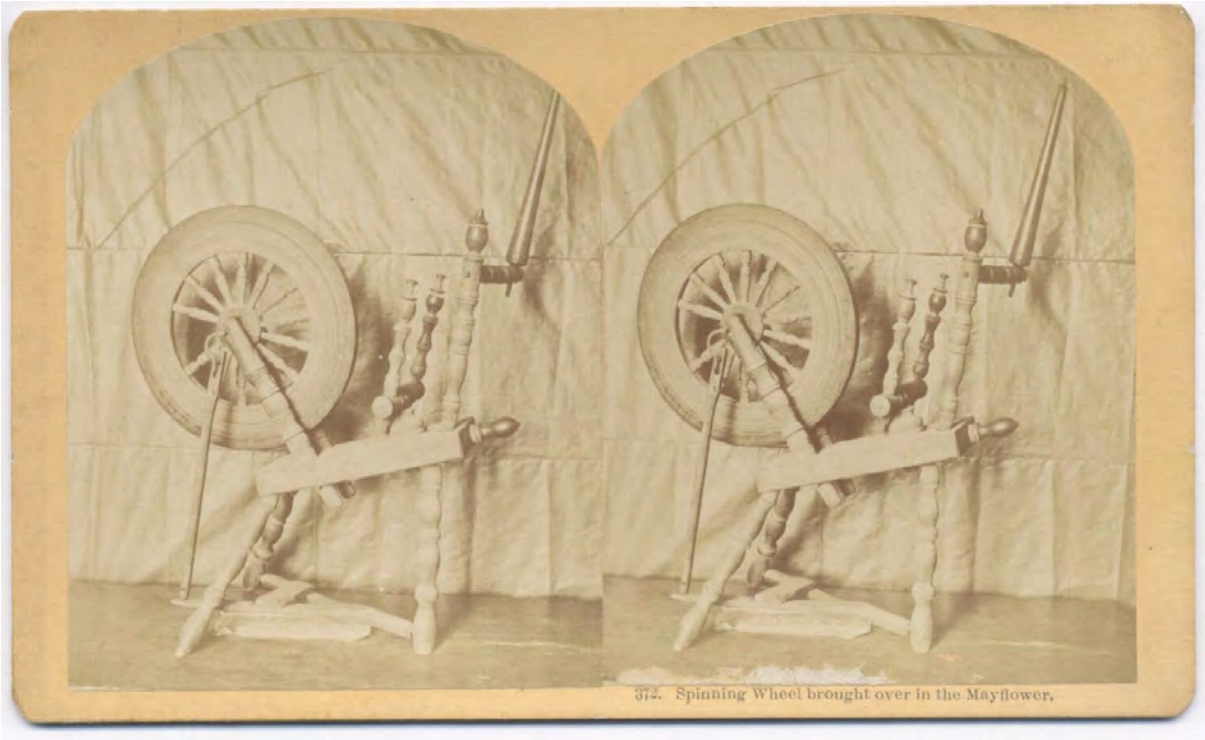
Figure 6. Wooden swift

in New Bedford. The elaborate scrimshaw designs were carved by the sailors while at sea, often for their girl friends and fiancées at home.

A Pilgrim garden often had a small section of flax and hemp plants for domestic use. The seed was usually sown "broadcast" style like grass seed during the month of May. The graceful flax plant has attractive blue flowers; the hemp plant has a more muted pastel color.

The Pilgrims (and our nation's early pioneers) were independent from needing help from the outside for many of the necessities of life. The preparation of yarn for weaving is an example. Their independence, confidence, faith, and powers of endurance are attributes we all admire.

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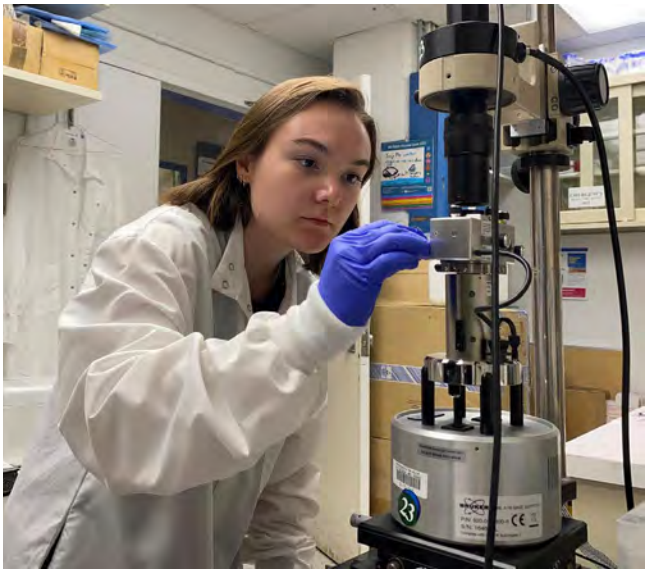
The spinning wheel brought over in the Mayflower

About 1875, Benjamin West Kilburn, albumen silver print
J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles (not in copyright)

Mayflower Scholarship Recipient Joins the Fight Against Disease

by William P. Cheshire

Members of the Edward Doty Colony will recall Olivia Dyer Ernst, who has been a Junior Member since she was a baby. In 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic began to sweep across the globe, Olivia's high school graduation ceremony, like so many others, converted to a virtual format. Denied the opportunity to walk down the aisle to receive her degree, Olivia was not about to let a coronavirus impede her educational advancement.



Olivia Ernst. NIBIB image used with permission

A recipient of the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants Scholarship, Olivia traveled to New York to pursue a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Biomedical Engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where she has maintained her standing on the Dean's List. Captivated by science since her elementary school years, she has developed a serious interest in its applications to solve real-world problems.

This past summer, Olivia was an intern at the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Wasting no time, she set to work engaging one of the most vital problems in global health: malaria, which in 2020 took the lives of nearly two-thirds of a million people.[1] Her research was featured on the NIBIB website. Under the supervision of top-flight experts at the NIH, she learned to use atomic force microscopy and other techniques to examine malaria vaccines, a surface protein of the parasite known as the circumsporozoite protein, and the behavior of the parasite itself.[2] NIBIB Summer Internship Program Director Dr. Robert Lutz writes in an email, "She was a wonderful intern. I predict great things in the future for Olivia."

As Olivia enters her senior year, her name has already appeared on four scientific papers, including one in the prestigious journal *Analytical Chemistry*, on which she was first author.[3]

Olivia is a role model for younger women whose professional aspirations reach into the sciences. Last year, she served as

1 CDC information about malaria
2 Interning at NIBIB: Summer 2023
3 Ernst OD, Vaghef-Koodehi A, Dillis C, Lomeli-Martin A, Lapizco-Encinas BH. Dependence of nonlinear electrophoresis on particle size and electrical charge. Anal Chem 2023; 95(16): 6595-6602.

President of the RIT Chapter of the Society of Women Engineers and continues this year as Vice President. As an officer, she actively supports the advancement of younger women through mentorship and outreach events, and she communicates with corporate sponsors to give students industry exposure. She has also served as a laboratory teaching assistant in bioanalytical microfluidics. Her future plans include considering pursuing a doctorate. Olivia writes: "Working at the NIH gave me the opportunity to learn about so many fields of research I did not even know existed. This both opened me up to more possibilities and helped me better decide what I want to do in the future."

Your donations to the Mayflower Scholarship funds help to enable students like Olivia to pursue their educational dreams.

Olivia's father, Frederick M. Ernst, her grandfather, Frederick G. Ernst, as well as her great aunt, Bunny Halligan, are also members of the Edward Doty Colony.



Forty-Third General Congress

Plymouth, Massachusetts, September 8-13, 2023

Florida Delegation Report by James Preston

The Florida delegation was led by James Preston (DGG) and Governor Suzanne Adams (AG). Business sessions were held Monday and Tuesday to accomplish the ongoing work at hand. Governor General Jane Hurt reported that



Left to Right, Back Row: Angie Wakefield, Sharon Barry, Joyce Gillen, Jackie Arsenault, Governor Suzanne Adams, Ruth Ann Fay, James Preston. *Front Row*: Louise Rumnock, Muriel Cushing, Reynolds Cushing, Nancy Ratner, Karen Kovarik, Elizabeth Werner. Images from the Congress are courtesy of James Preston.

membership in GSMD is over 30,000 with 6500 new applications and 3500 supplementals approved in the last three years. A resolution presented by the Treasurer General to increase the fees for new applications and supplemental applications was discussed, amended, and adopted to raise the fees by $25.00 to $150.00 due to ever increasing costs associated with researching and approving documentation.

All proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments were adopted.



Muriel and Reynolds Cushing

Restoration and repair work on the Mayflower House is nearing completion and is looking grand. Work on the Mayflower Meetinghouse/church continues with installation of an elevator to accommodate disabled visitors scheduled for October.

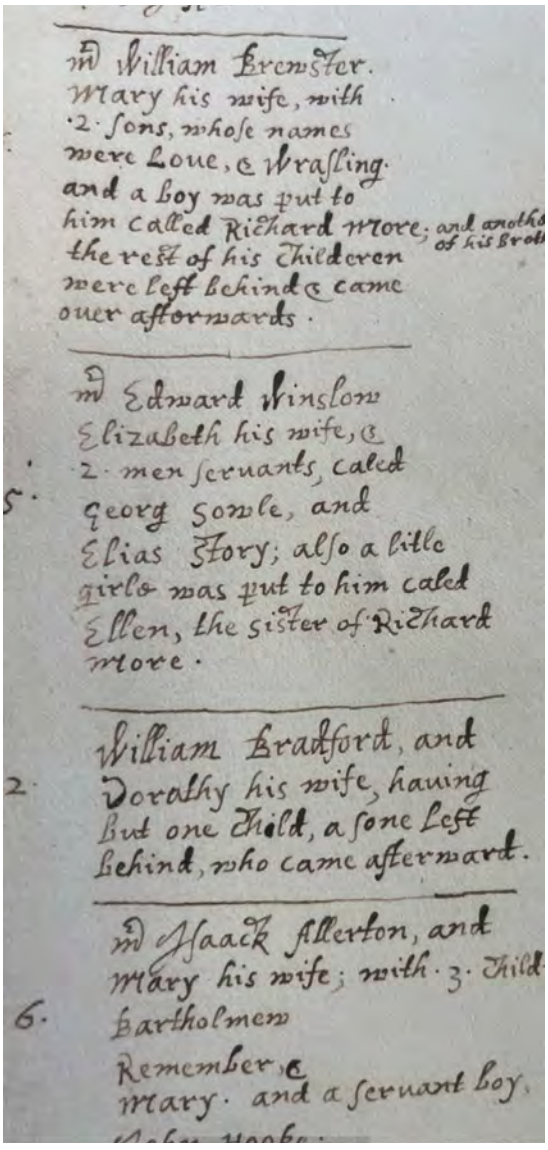
Elections of the Mayflower Board officers was held. Our new Governor General is Lisa Pennington, Assistant Governor General is Jeff Starke, General Secretary is Martin Beerman, General Treasurer is Burt Hinson, Historian General is Allie Golon, Elder General is Reverend Michael Denney, Counselor General is James Wheaton, Captain General is Collier Weise, and from Florida, Doctor David Nash, Governor of the James Chilton Colony, was elected as Surgeon General.

Image on page 22: General Society of Mayflower Descendants Facebook post

VIEWING STROKES FROM WILLIAM BRADFORD'S OWN QUILL PEN

by Suzanne Adams

I was privileged to be among 50 or so descendants of the Mayflower Pilgrims who were allowed this rare viewing of **the original handwritten journal of William Bradford** known as *Of Plimoth Plantation*. This document, which was written between 1630 and 1650, is no longer on public display but is


M^r William Brewster.
Mary his wife, with
2. sons, whose names
were Loue, & Wrasling.
and a boy was put to
him called Richard more; and anothe
of his Brot
the rest of his Childeren
were left behind & came
ouer afterwards.

M^r Edward Winslow
Elizabeth his wife, &
2. men seruants, caled
Georg Sowle, and
Elias Story; also a litle
girle was put to him caled
Ellen, the sister of Richard
more.

William Bradford, and
Dorathy his wife, hauing
But one Child, a sone Left
behind, who came afterward.

M^r Isaack Allerton, and
Mary his wife; with 3. Child
Bartholmew
Remember, &
Mary. and a seruant boy.



kept under controlled conditions away from light, humidity, and other deteriorating elements by the Massachusetts State Library at the State House in Boston. For our special viewing, the library had this meticulously restored document under glass and special lighting and was opened to the pages which listed the Mayflower passengers along with Bradford's short commentary on each entry.

Following Bradford's death in 1657, the manuscript remained in the Bradford family until 1775, when it was allowed by them to be used by historians and clergymen to document the history



of the colony in our fledgling country. The last known location of the document was the library of the Old South Church, Boston, before the volume disappeared, presumably removed by British soldiers during the American Revolution. It remained "lost" until 1855, when it was rediscovered in England in the library of the Bishop of London. After years of negotiation, the volume was finally returned to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1897, where it resides to this day.

This nearly 400-year-old manuscript is a seminal work of United States history, documenting the everyday lives of the settlers of Plymouth Colony. **It contains the only existing handwritten version of the Mayflower Compact.** It was a distinct honor to look upon this rare treasure and reflect on its significance to our understanding of the early years of our country.

MEET THE NEW SURGEON GENERAL

by William P. Cheshire

David Lowell Nash, M.D., of The Villages, Florida, has been elected Surgeon General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants for the 2023-2026 term. A native of St. Paul, Minnesota, Dave received his medical degree from the University of Minnesota. Following a surgical internship at Duke University, he completed his residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Mayo Clinic with a subspecialty in Pediatric Rehabilitation. His area of clinical focus is managing developmental disabilities including gait disorders and spasticity in children and adolescents who have special needs. He retired from full-time medical practice in 2014 but as Emeritus Professor continues his clinical and teaching responsibiltiies, traveling to Mayo Clinic's campus in Rochester, Minnesota, one week out of every month.

Dave and his wife, Sue (who is a retired Associate Professor of Nursing), are finding the winters in Florida to be more enjoyable. A descendant of William Bradford, he became a member of the Mayflower Society in 2017, and this past year he had a supplemental application approved, tracing his lineage also to Stephen Hopkins. An active participant in The James Chilton Colony in The Villages since 2017, he currently serves as Colony Governor. With his dual Mayflower Society roles, he plans to grow the Chilton Colony and spark more interest in Mayflower affairs in his community, where The Villages Genealogical Society has an active presence.



David Nash, M.D.

Image credit: James Preston.

Dave's new role as Surgeon General came to him unexpectedly. Like our Pilgrim ancestors, he happened to be on the right ship at the right time. In 2022, Dave and Sue journeyed to the Netherlands and to England on the Mayflower 400 Tour. While visiting historical sites, he got to know some of his distant Mayflower cousins, including several on board who serve in GSMD leadership. These new personal relationships led to his nomination to the ballot at the Forty-Third Triennial

Congress in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in September 2023.

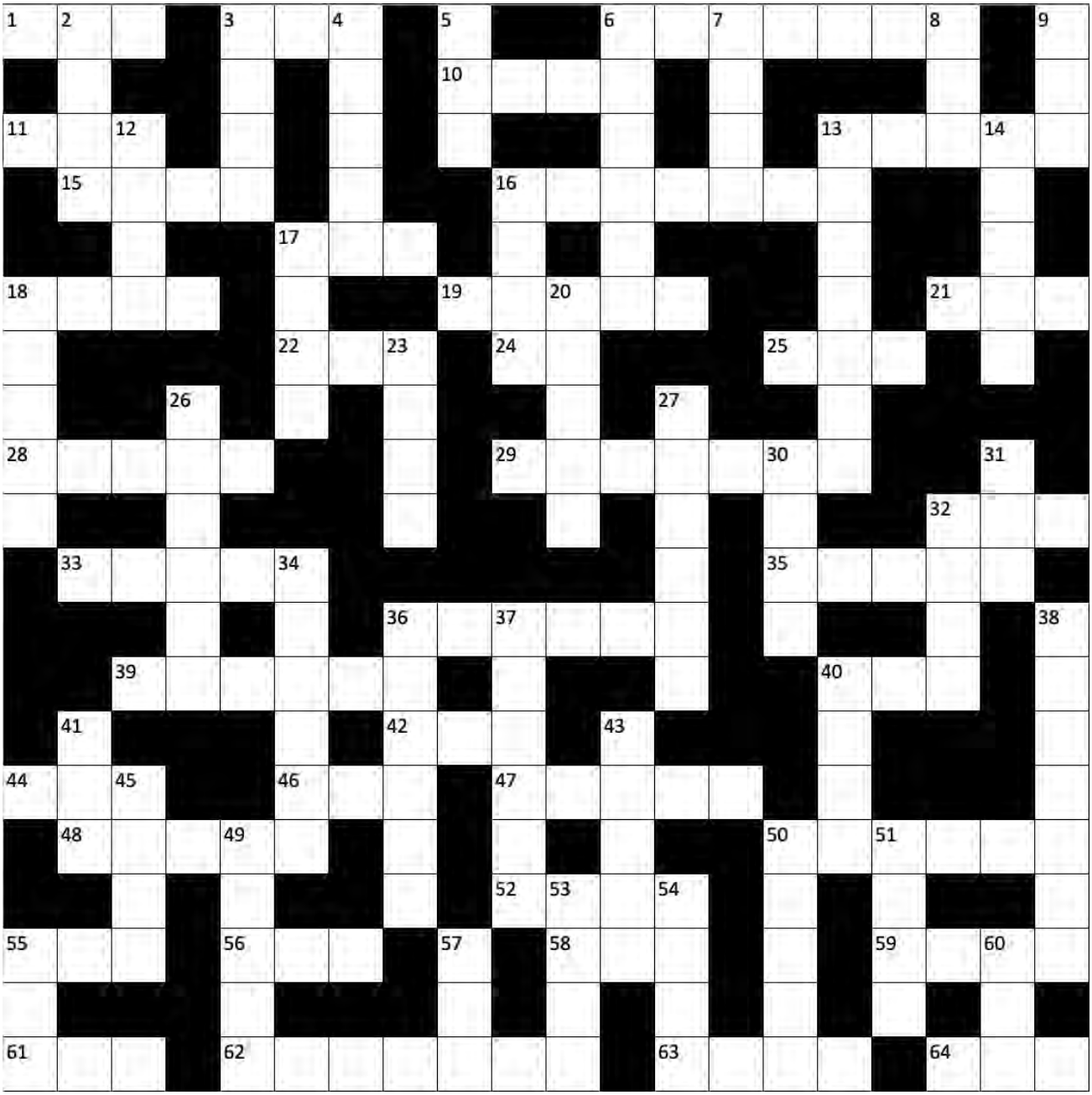
As Surgeon General, Dave looks forward to being a part of the GSMD Executive Committee under the leadership of Governor General Lisa Pennington, who has ambitious goals for the Mayflower Society over the next three years. Dave writes that he feels inspired to serve the Society while sustaining and growing the legacy of our Mayflower ancestors.

Dave and Sue recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have four children and 15 grandchildren.



Incoming GSMD Surgeon General Dr. David Nash takes a moment in between patient visits to meet with *Florida Pilgrim* editor Dr. William P. Cheshire at the Rochester, Minnesota, campus of Mayo Clinic.

FABRIC THEME CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. 50% discounted cloth may be said to be half ___
3. To join with stitches
6. Various clothing
10. To interlace yarn in a series of connected loops
11. Hem and ___
13. A cloth with threads passing diagonally
15. Academic attire
16. To make creases
17. What trousers cover two of
18. Textile made by matting and pressing fibers together
19. A strand of fabric
21. Open-meshed fabric
22. A garment's style or shape
24. Expression of dissent
25. Decorative nuchal ribbon
28. Woven fabric
29. Furrow
32. A collection of fabric dyed in the same bath
33. A stitch in the wrong direction has gone ___
35. A fabric that should not be ironed
36. A band around the neck
39. Soft fine wool
40. Folded sewn border
42. A Scottish cap

Continued on next page . . .

ANSWERS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE FLORIDA PILGRIM

44. Acronym for plastic optical fiber
46. To penetrate fabric with an edged instrument
47. Tartan in crossbarred colors
48. Fabric with even pile longer than velvet
50. A single fiber of yarn
52. Shined with cloth and polish
55. Black and white evening suit
56. All sewing machines have a free one
58. A conjunction that stitches clauses together
59. Posture when displaying the latest fashion trend
61. Wad of cloth stuffed into the mouth by a brigand
62. Soft fabric with a loose texture
63. Long drawn-out tale
64. Colored substance that bonds to fiber

DOWN
2. Banner made of durable fabric
3. To twist and turn yarn
4. To interlace threads
5. The Bayeux Tapestry shows Halley's Comet here
6. Formal clothing
7. Color of fabric dyed with rose petals and lavender
8. Polynesian garland braided and worn around the neck
9. Tool for piercing leather
12. The most fireproof fabric
13. Woven cloth
14. Cloth made of flax
16. Alternative to Federal Reserve notes made of cotton and linen
17. Ornamental braid
18. A long garment with full sleeves worn by monks
20. Fabric is ironed on this
23. What a spinning wheel does
26. Long narrow section with a different color
27. Rabbit wool
30. Cotton fluff
31. To put on a garment
32. A frame for weaving
34. A single in-and-out sewing motion
36. The most widely used fabric
37. Sumptuously decorated silk
38. To dye over with a second color
40. This shrinks clothes
41. Bundle of thick strings fastened to a handle for cleaning
43. Viscose fabric
45. Source of fiber and linseed oil
49. Warmly encircles the neck
50. Fabric that is not opaque
51. Cordage
53. To transport heavy weight fabric
54. To be at the forefront of a fashion trend
55. A garment's identifying marker
57. Used to fasten fabric
60. "Vegetable cashmere"

ANSWERS TO THE JUNE 2023 MAYFLOWER CROSSWORD PUZZLE

■	B	■	■	O	■	■	■	■	B	A	Y	■	O	■
B	R	O	W	N	E	■	S	E	A	■	■	S	I	T
■	E	■	E	■	■	C	■	■	C	I	V	I	L	■
■	W	■	S	Q	U	A	N	T	O	■	■	L	■	A
■	S	■	T	■	■	R	■	■	N	■	E	V	I	L
S	T	O	O	P	■	V	■	■	■	B	■	E	■	D
■	E	■	N	■	F	E	L	T	■	I	■	R	■	E
■	R	■	■	N	O	R	■	I	L	L	■	■	■	N
H	■	A	■	■	U	■	■	L	■	L	E	A	K	■
A	I	R	■	A	R	C	■	L	■	I	■	■	■	P
R	■	C	■	L	■	O	C	E	A	N	U	S	■	A
V	A	T	■	I	■	D	■	Y	■	G	■	A	■	T
E	■	I	■	C	■	■	W	■	S	T	R	I	P	E
S	A	C	H	E	M	■	A	■	■	O	■	N	■	N
T	■	■	■	■	E	A	S	T	■	N	■	T	O	T


Fall General
Membership Meeting
November 3-4, 2023
AV Hotel by Marriott
Universities at the Capitol
801 S. Gadsden Street
Tallahassee, FL
Click this link
for reservations
VENUE CHANGE



The Richard Warren Colony's Mayflower t-shirt campaign continues

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 Florida sunshine by sporting one of these spiffy Mayflower t-shirts, designed by the editor of the *Florida Pilgrim*. Proceeds benefit the Colony's educational and charitable activities. Just go to: https://www.bonfire.com/florida-society-of-mayflower-descendants/



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

Alexandra Harris, Colony Governor

No report this issue, and we wish them "Fair Winds and Following Seas."

ISAAC ALLERTON, West Palm Beach

Mark David Rhodes, Colony Governor

No report this issue, and we wish them "Fair Winds and Following Seas."

WILLIAM BRADFORD, St. Petersburg

Shirley Smith, Communications Director

Colony Governor Garald K. "Robbie" Robinson writes: We established a coin for our William Bradford Colony, and I want to let you know that two of those coins are now located in England! Kathy and I traveled there in July, and as part of our trip we went to the Mayflower Pub, which is located in Rothertithe, a suburb of London. This is where the Mayflower was moored on the River Thames in1620, before the famous journey to America. As you can see from the photo, I gave one of our coins to two of the employees who told me they would display it in the area behind them.



We also visited Highclere Castle, which is where the famous TV series "Downton Abbey" was filmed for several years. The castle is owned by George Herbert, the 8th Earl of Carnarvan, and according to his website, he is a descendant of Mayflower passenger Richard Warren through his mother's side of the family, who came from Big Horn, Wyoming, of

all places! Consequently, I felt it was appropriate to give a coin to him while visiting the castle. Unfortunately, he was not there the day we visited, so we gave the coin to a senior member of his staff, who told us they would give it to him when he returned.



I hope none of you was adversely impacted by Idalia. Looking forward to seeing everyone again on 4 November at St. Petersburg Yacht Club, when I will be giving a presentation on the research I have been conducting on William Bradford. I think you will find a few surprises in what I have to share with you.

Neal Walters, Acting Secretary, writes: Our Colony has 200 members, which includes 27 life members. Also Bradford Colony has currently 190 Junior Members, the largest in the State of Florida. At our February 4 meeting, Colony Vice Governor Robbie Robinson spoke on the lives of the 25 Mayflower children passengers who survived the first year. 19 of the children survived to adulthood, married, and together produced more than 130 surviving children.

Governor Helen Bennett called everyone to welcome Robbie Robinson to the podium to hand over the Chapter Medallion and gavel to the newly elected Governor of the William Bradford Colony. Robbie thanked Governor Helen Bennett for all her years of service and her leadership.

ELDER WILLIAM BREWSTER, Miami

Clara Waterman Powell, Colony Governor

The Elder William Brewster Colony, located in South Florida, gathered thrice during the period.

Friday, November 4, 2022, the fall Colony luncheon meeting was held at the scenic Coral Reef Yacht Club in Coconut Grove. Mr. Ron Magill, Communications Director and Wildlife Ambassador for the Miami-Dade Zoological Park, was to be our speaker. The room was filled with laughter and many stories of the past year. Thank you, Colony Captain Jon Stemples, for hosting an enjoyable and delicious luncheon.

Friday, February 3, 2023, the winter Colony luncheon meeting was held at the scenic Coral Reef Yacht Club in Coconut Grove. The Program Speaker was archologist Joshua Marano on "Current Archaeological Field Projects in Biscayne National Park." His extensive slide presentation was comprehensive and beautiful. The CRYC state-of-the art audio visuals enhanced the beautiful slides. Applicant Joyce Rose, Texas transfer member Steven Brewster with his wife, and visiting Steven Hopkins Governor Sharon Paugh were in attendance as well as returning 26-year member Harry Cushman Palmer III.

Friday, May 5, 2023, the spring Colony



Brewster Colony luncheon, February 2023

luncheon meeting was held at the scenic Coral Reef Yacht Club in Coconut Grove. Colony Captain Jon Stemples was our host. The Program Speaker was actor and researcher of Historic Characters Mr. Robert Phillip Bruce Dawson. He presented another view of the voyage of the Mayflower as "Captain Christopher Jones of the Mayflower." He spoke in costume, referring to his many props similar to those Captain Jones would have used during the voyage.



Brewster Colony luncheon, May 2023

Mr. Dawson's thorough explanation and knowledge of the voyage were spellbinding.

Member enhancement projects continued this year: Colony members are sent birthday cards during the week of their birthday, as well as all Junior members. This provides a vehicle to gain updates on member addresses and activities.

The Pink Book listing members and information on FSMD and Brewster Colony through August 2023 was published and mailed to all current members.

We currently have 95 members (including 3 Life members). There are two applications in Plymouth. Five applications were approved during the period, and seven supplemental requests were approved. One new colony member transferred in from OH, and one Dual member from MA joined our colony. There were no deaths reported since November 2022. We have 45 Junior members.

JAMES CHILTON, The Villages

David L. Nash, Colony Governor

The James Chilton Colony will be meeting November 11, the 403rd anniversary of the signing of the Mayflower Compact. Vice Governor Paul Pardee will be making a presentation on the Mayflower Compact for our program. We will also be voting on our slate of nominees for the 2024-2026 term: David Nash, Governor; Paul Pardee, Vice-Governor; Karen McMahon, Treasurer; Thomas Herrick, Captain; Rev. Doyle

Klinger, Elder; Jim Roorbach, Eileen Steele and Beverly Hulett, Members at Large. We owe a large debt of gratitude to Ken Carter, who was one of the founders of our Colony 20 years ago and has served the Colony and State Society in many different roles over the years. He will be stepping down from being our Treasurer for the past 20 years.

We can report 4 new members for 2023. We have lost 18, with our current membership in good standing at 63. We also look forward to having a direct connection to the GSMD with our Colony Governor David Nash, MD, being inducted as Surgeon General and member of the Executive Committee at the 43rd General Congress September meeting in Plymouth.

FRANCIS COOKE, Daytona Beach

Louise Rumnock, Colony Historian

No report this issue, and we wish them "Fair Winds and Following Seas."



EDWARD DOTY, Pensacola

Mary "Bunny" Halligan, Colony Governor

Edward Doty Colony is pleased to share with our Florida cousins that one of our members, Patricia Crumly, has provided a beautiful display for the glass cabinet in the lobby of the Tryon Library in Pensacola for the month of October. Patricia has been collecting Pilgrim memorabilia for years, and we are hoping that her display will inspire those who visit the library to think about and enjoy our proud heritage.

EDWARD FULLER, Polk County

Herbert Waldron, Colony Governor

No report this issue, and we wish them "Fair Winds and Following Seas."

SAMUEL FULLER, Palm Beach

Annette Geddes, Colony Governor

No report this issue, and we wish them "Fair Winds and Following Seas."

STEPHEN HOPKINS, Vero Beach

Sharon Paugh, Colony Governor

No report this issue, and we wish them "Fair Winds and Following Seas."

JOHN HOWLAND, Winter Park

Jacquelyn Arsenault, Colony Governor

No report this issue, and we wish them "Fair Winds and Following Seas."

WILLIAM MULLINS, Ocala

Brian Voge, Colony Governor

The William Mullins Colony held its Fall Meeting on October 7th. Our program speaker was Priscilla Mullins Alden, who entertained our members with stories of the voyage from Eng-

land to the New World. She also shared the suffering of the Pilgrims, the Strangers, and the crew of the Mayflower that first winter. She described the illness that took the lives of half of the Plymouth residents, including her parents and her brother. Once things settled down she described meeting the first "Naturals," and the first Harvest Festival with 90 Naturals sharing in the three-day event. Priscilla then described John Aldens "sort of" proposal, their marriage, and her subsequent life as a school teacher and mother of ten children.



If any Mayflower Colony is interested in having Priscilla Alden appear at their meeting, please go to her website: "makehistorycomealive.com". In addition to Priscilla Alden, Dee Collier (a local Ocala resident) also can appear in full costume as over 26 historical characters. All of her characters are listed on her website.

HENRY SAMSON, Fort Myers

Teri Peterson, Colony Governor

No report this issue, and we wish them "Fair Winds and Following Seas."

MYLES STANDISH, Naples

Ann Lambert Kremer, Colony Governor

The reader is referred to pages 14-17 for an illustrious report on the Colony's March 2023 meeting in costume.



Carolyn Alden and Ann Lambert Kremer

ELIZABETH TILLEY, Fort Myers

Katherine Adamo, Colony Governor

The Elizabeth Tilley Colony has again had a wonderful year. We continue to have a very good showing of support from our Colony members, and our average attendance at our meetings has been between 30-35 members. As of our last May meeting, we were successful in earning $1000 towards our scholarship fund.

In addition, we continue to have raffles at each meeting for the opportunity to win a free luncheon or 50/50 raffles, which all proceeds go towards our scholarship fund! Our Tilley Colony was proud to be able to present two scholarships worth $1,000 each to junior members who are high school seniors, and we hope to do the same again in May 2024. We hope to continue to support our students in this endeavor and will be looking towards more fundraising events to help continue to support our fund.

At this time, we currently have 103 members in our Colony with 16 members to be dropped for non-payment, 1 member transferred in, and 2 members deceased.

We will continue to strive to be active in all things and make our members proud to be a part of our Colony.



Richard Warren Colony members read the Mayflower Compact, October 21, 2023



Bill Cheshire swears in newly elected Richard Warren Colony officers for 2023-2026

RICHARD WARREN, Jacksonville

Bill Cheshire, Colony Governor

In the tenth edition of our colony newsletter, *Mayflower Tidings*, I contributed a history of the Richard Warren Colony from its charter in 1957 to the present time, including snapshots of each Colony Governor.

As my 2020-2023 term in office comes to a close, I am grateful to our Secretary, Carolyn Gentry, who was a source of constant encouragement. In addition to keeping minutes of Colony meetings, her connections with local news media gave us new opportunities to raise awareness of the Mayflower story in the community. Our Treasurer, Miles Schueth, with grace and charm kept track of the constantly changing membership roster, ensuring that all members remained connected. Our Historian, Sharon Gilley, brought thoughtful genealogical expertise and assisted prospective members through the exacting process of proving their Mayflower descendancy and helping them to obtain approval by the rigorous reviewers in Plymouth. Our Elder, John Howland, with cheerful reverence, opened



Left to right: John Howland, Lynne Raiser, Lori Day, Elaine Stemetzki, Sharon Gilley, Donna Webb, Bill Cheshire

and closed our Colony meetings with prayers that I have no doubt the Pilgrims would have approved. I appreciate also the comfort he provided to the grieving. Our past Governor, Mere Schwartz, has been a faithful colleague in our efforts to enliven and grow the membership.

Attendance at our October meeting numbered 21 members and prospective members. The following officers were elected to serve in the 2023-2026 term: Donna Webb, Governor; Lynne Raiser, Deputy Governor; Lori Day, Secretary; Elaine Stemetzki, Treasurer; John Howland, Elder; Sharon Gilley, Historian; and Lori Day, Captain.

Finally, in recognition of recent and developing events in the Middle East, Elder John Howland led us in a prayer for the people of Israel and beyond its borders. In the spirit of the Apostle Paul's teaching in *Romans 11*, we join in prayer with our spiritual cousins in the Jewish faith. Elder Howland's prayer is reprinted on the next page. The Richard Warren Colony is concerned about and holds in its prayers people of all faiths who are facing persecution and violence, especially the innocent, not only in Israel, but also in Gaza, Ukraine, Nagorno-Karabakh, and in all nations disrupted by conflict and where distrust and hatred has been stirred up. May God grant us peace.

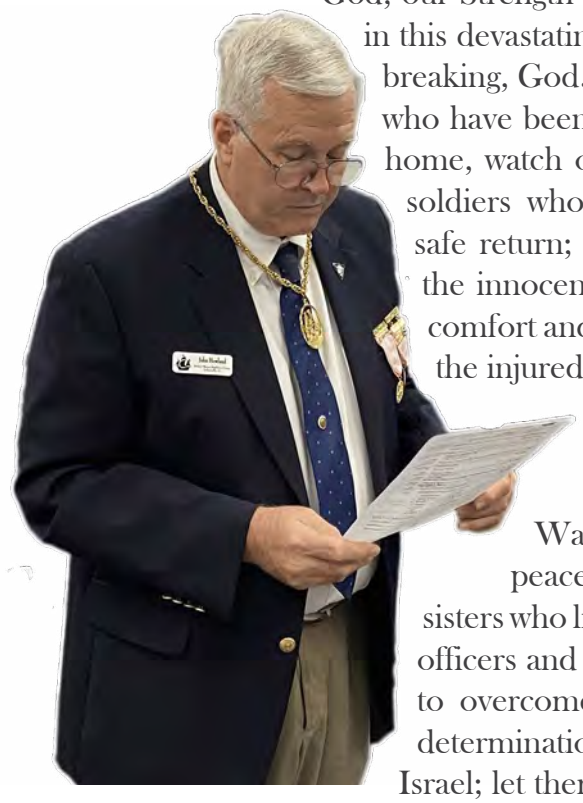
EDWARD WINSLOW, Tallahassee

Karen Sheffield, Colony Governor

No report this issue, as the Winslow Colony is busy preparing to host the FSMD fall meeting. We thank the Winslow Colony for their preparations and look forward to the fall meeting to be hosted in Tallahassee next week.

A Prayer for Israel in This Time of War

Rabbi Naomi Levi, *Jewish Journal*, October 11, 2023



Richard Warren Colony
Elder John Howland

God, our Strength and Protection, we pray for the State of Israel in this devastating time of war, shock and grief. Our hearts are breaking, God. We pray for the lives of the innocent civilians who have been heartlessly kidnapped by Hamas; bring them home, watch over them, God. We pray for the lives of the soldiers who have been taken captive; we pray for their safe return; shelter them, God. We pray for the souls of the innocent victims who were brutally slaughtered. Send comfort and strength, God, to the grieving. Send healing to the injured, and strength and wisdom to their doctors and nurses. We pray for all our brothers and sisters in Israel in this time of tragedy and crisis.

Watch over Israel, God, spread Your shelter of peace over the land and over all our brothers and sisters who live there. Shine Your light upon Israel's leaders, officers and advisers; innocent blood is calling out to them to overcome all divisiveness and to act with clarity and determination. Protect the men and women who defend Israel; let them be safe, and may they be victorious over the Hamas terrorists who attacked our people. Watch over them, God. Hear their prayers. Bring peace, God. Let it rain down from the heavens like a mighty storm. Let it wash away all hatred and bloodshed. Peace, God, please, God.

God of the brokenhearted, God of the living, God of the dead, gather the souls of the victims into Your eternal shelter. Let them find peace in Your presence, God. Their lives have ended, but their lights can never be extinguished. May they shine on us always and illuminate our way.

Amen.

Future FSMD Meeting Dates

2023 – Fall Annual Meeting - Friday & Saturday, November 3 & 4, 2023
Hosted by the Edward Winslow Colony, Tallahassee

2024 – Spring BoA Meeting - April 27, 2024, Lakeland

2024 – Fall Annual Meeting – Proposed date November 15-16 or 22-23, 2024
Hosted by the Myles Standish Colony, Naples

2025 – Spring BoA Meeting - April 26, 2025

2025 – Fall Annual Meeting - November 22, 2025

2026 – Spring BoA Meeting – April 25, 2026

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

From the Archives

Cooke Colony vice governor Ruth Ann Fay appeared in period attire and spoke of "Styles of the 16th and 17th centuries." She debunked the popular myth that Pilgrims dressed only in black and white and wore buckles on their hats and shoes. She also explained how, in England from the reign of Edward III in the Middle Ages until well into the 17th century, sumptuary laws dictated what color and type of clothing, furs, fabrics, and trims were allowed to persons of various ranks or incomes. In the case of clothing, this was intended to reduce spending on foreign textiles and to ensure that people did not dress "above their station" in life. An Elizabethan "dress code" so to speak. She also explained how men's fashion was generally more elaborate than women's, which was more utilitarian. If you see Ruth Ann, ask her to explain what a "bum-roll" was and why it was considered fashionable for women to wear one. It's priceless.

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The Mayflower Society®

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

Objects 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

The cover image is adapted from Coronelli, Vincenzo. America Settentrionale colle nuoue scoperte fin al'anno , diuisa nelle sue parti secundo lo stato. [Venice: Vincenzo Coronelli, 1688] Map in public domain. Accessed at: https://www.loc.gov/item/2014588597/