The Florida Pilgrim

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

Volume 51, Number 1 February 2026



Florida Society members attending the General Society of Mayflower Descendants Board of Assistants meeting in San Antonio, Texas, September 2025. From left to right: Jacquelyn Arsenault, Elder; William P. Cheshire, Deputy Governor; Suzanne Adams, Assistant General; Karen Sheffield; and James Preston, Deputy Governor General. Not pictured are Linda Anderson, Historian; Adrienne Condon; and April McCabe. Image credit: Doug Blake, Editor-in-Chief, *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*

Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants

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

OFFICERS 2023-2026

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Deputy Governor..... Dr. William P. Cheshire
Secretary.....Alice Ervin
Treasurer.....James Preston
Historian..... Louise Rumnock
Elder.....Jackie Arsenault
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Education..... William P. Cheshire
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Florida Pilgrim Editor..... William P. Cheshire

Cover image courtesy of Doug Blake, Editor of *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*

COLONY GOVERNORS

John Alden, Fort Lauderdale.....Linda A. Williams
Isaac Allerton, West Palm Beach .....Mark Rhodes
William Bradford, St. Petersburg.....Robbie Robinson
William Brewster, Miami.....Rod Hildebrant
James Chilton, The Villages ..... Dr. David Nash
Francis Cooke, Daytona Beach .....Mary Catherine Jiloty
Edward Doty, Pensacola.....Karen Sutton
Edward Fuller, Polk County .....Herbert Waldron
Samuel Fuller, Palm Beach.....Robin Azquela
Stephen Hopkins, Vero Beach.....Carolyn “Lynne” Jensen
John Howland, Winter Park.....Jackie Arsenault
William Mullins, Ocala.....Brian Voge
Henry Samson, Fort Myers .....Robert McGuire
Myles Standish, Naples .....Carolyn Alden
Elizabeth Tilley, Fort Myers .....Katherine Adamo
Richard Warren, Jacksonville.....Donna Webb
Edward Winslow, Tallahassee ..... Karen Sheffield

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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!

Happy Florida Winter, hope you had a joyous holiday season and New Year. We had a good annual meeting last November with Clara Waterman Powell being recognized by the General Society in San Antonio for her dedication to Mayflower. We congratulated Clara on this well-deserved honor. It is with a heavy heart, though, that I am sorry to report that Clara passed away last month. She was an invaluable member of the Society and served in many different positions, including Governor of the William Brewster Colony, Chair of the Florida Juniors Program, Scholarship Chair, and Board of Assistants member at Large. She will be missed by all.

At our Fall meeting, Mark Rhodes gave a prevention on the state of the database and how it can be used, really exciting to see. The scholarship form is on the website for downloading, and we welcome the Scholarship Committee's new chair, Teri Peterson. We had terrific student candidates last year and hope for the same this year. The nominating committee for the next board includes Jim Preston, Suzanne Adams and Bill Cheshire. If you are interested in servicing on the next board for 3 years, please contact one of the committee members. Our spring meeting is at the Villages in April, hope to see you there.

Best wishes,

Brian McWaters
Governor, Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants



But We Know We Are Digital Pilgrims

by William P. Cheshire

Recently, when driving along Florida's coastline to an unfamiliar city, I was thankful to have a Global Positioning System (GPS) device in my car to direct me in choosing which routes to take, in other words, to keep me from getting lost. At 8436 miles including tidal inlets, barrier islands, and bays,[1] Florida has the longest coastline in the contiguous United States, a distance two and a half times longer than the 3350 miles the Mayflower sailed across open seas in 1620.

When I turn on the voice feature on

1. Shoreline Mileage of the United States



my GPS device, I prefer to bypass the default American accent and choose a gentle English one instead.

On this trip, a thought came to mind. What if it were possible to choose to have the GPS speak in a 17th century English accent? What would it be like to hear driving directions from a voice that sounded as if it had just stepped off the *Mayflower*?

John Clarke, the pilot of the *Mayflower*, was knowledgeable about the New England coastline and had even travelled to Virginia but would have known far less about Florida geography. William Bradford records that, when the Separatists planned where they would settle in the New World, they were reluctant to consider Florida because of its heat.

> And first after their humble prayers unto God for his direction & assistance, & a general conference held here about, they consulted what particular place to pitch upon, & prepare for.... [and decided that] hot countries are subject to grievous diseases, and many nuisome impediments, and would not so well agree with our English bodies. Again, if they should there live, & do well, the jealous Spaniard would never suffer them long, but would displant or overthrow them, as he did the French in Florida.[2]

So, if bridging the temporal divide were even possible, directions from a *Mayflower* passenger might be, well, geographically unreliable. However, it would surely be cool to listen to a 1620 English accent in my horseless carriage. What might that voice say?

Drawing from the words of my ancestor William Bradford, as written in *Of Plimoth Plantation*, and with a touch of embellishment, I imagined taking the following Florida journey, starting from Ponte Vedra Beach and heading South. First, I typed in my coastal destination. Let us call it "South of Northern Virginia." I then selected a Mayflower GPS voice and named it "Myles."

As the GPS calculated my route, Myles spoke: "Hoist your sail, good pilgrim. As you depart, ensure that you have provisions sufficient for the voyage, and be of good cheer!" As I proceeded southward, all seemed well when Myles spoke again, offering merry advice: "You have prosperous winds, but it may come to pass that difficulties might arise. Look for a favorable norwest wind to carry you southward along your course."

A while later, I came upon some traffic congestion. Myles alerted me, saying, "My eyeglass spies an assembly of ships ahead, all packed together like herrings. I cannot tell which is in command, but as no cannons are displayed, they would seem to pose no threat."

Pairs of red brake lights began to light up among the cars immediately ahead, and we slowed to a crawl. "Please suggest an alternate route," said I, hoping to bypass the sluggish traffic.

"Reckoning," responded Myles, followed by a pause. "To your left is a vast ocean and a sea of troubles, while to your right is a hideous and desolate wilderness of sand and palms. Ahead of you on this dry, crusty path lie a gathering of strange wagons of steel

2. William Bradford, *Of Plimoth Plantation,* 1630-1651.



and glass that, although not drawn by horses, nevertheless roll forward. Behold, in the stern of the shallop in front of you are two small windows, and into each is set a glowing ember. As you approach, take care that your sail does not catch fire!"

"What is the best alternate route?" I asked again.

"Are you sure you do not wish to put to sea?" asked Myles.

"No, my vessel is not seaworthy," I replied. "Please chart an alternate route on land."

"With all good pleasure," replied Myles. "My good pilgrim, turn here."

Obediently, I turned, at which point the image of the ship's helm on my car's display began to spin. "Reckoning," said Myles, after which he paused in silence. The weather also was shifting, as clouds rolled in from the West, covering the sky in a gray canopy. A minute or so later, Myles spoke again: "I see neither sun, moon, nor stars, but you may have gone too far, as you are about to pass planet Jupiter. Hmm. Reckoning… Tap on *Settings* if you wish to access my astrological program."

Just then, I passed the exit for the Florida city of Jupiter.

Myles continued: "Turn left and proceed two or three leagues. You will pass sundry towns and villages, until, about the space of a mile from the sea side, steer a course betwixt the Norwest and Southwest that might fall near some land where you might ride in safety." I seemed to be back on course, but I wasn't sure, and as if to lift my spirits, Myles spoke

again. “I pray you be not discouraged, but gather up yourself to go through these difficulties cheerfully and with courage in the place wherein God hath set you, until the hour of refreshing come.”

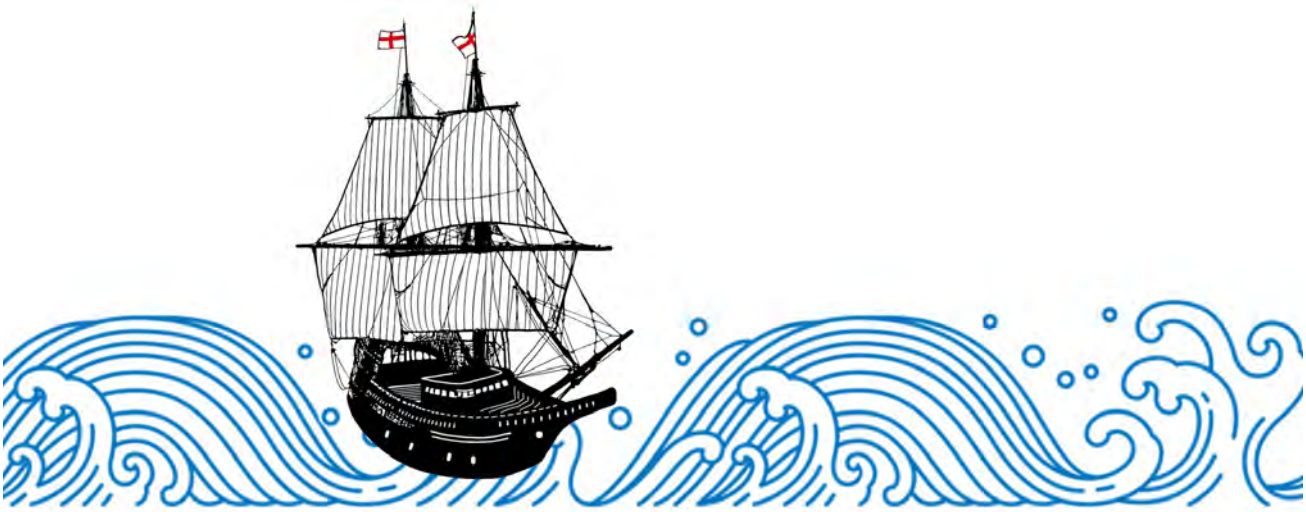
After another hour or so, dusk approached, and I started to look for a place to stop and have dinner. Myles anticipated the need, asking, “After such a long passage, do you desire a place to have your hungry belly filled?” Indeed I did. Myles did not disappoint. “Hasten toward the shore, and from thence venture toward those strange houses along the way, where light shines through windows where flames burn without so much as a puff of smoke. Steer your vessel betwixt those metal carts without horses that gather together like bees to a hive.”

Bewildered, I asked Myles,”Can I find a meal here?”

“Verily, for this area is known for grouper, snapper, and pompano in good plenty, although you might not find cod or bass. Search your money sack for a shilling or two, and you will enjoy a feast.”

Fair winds accompanied me the rest of the trip, and I was not a little joyful. In due time, as judged by the angle of the sun, I arrived at my destination to attend a meeting of the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants. “You have arrived at your destination,” remarked Myles. His 17th century English accent was growing familiar to my ear. “You may wish to lay out an anchor. The journey has been long, but you have proceeded well. All great and honorable actions are accompanied with great difficulties and must be both enterprised and overcome with answerable courages.”

“Adieu!” I replied. Yes, I had arrived, and I think I was starting to speak like him.



Scholarship Applications Are Open



Applications for graduating high school seniors are now open for the 2026 Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants Scholarship.

Information may be found on the FSMD website at https://www.flmayflower.com under "Programs".

The deadline is March 31, 2026.

After completing this form, print out the form, sign & send all documents by mail to Scholarship Committee Chair, Teri Peterson, 17181 Waters Edge Circle, North Fort Myers, Florida 33917. Note: the envelope must be postmarked by March 31, 2026.

Requirements include:

- Fully completed application with all requested information
- Ancestry to a Mayflower passenger including name of the sponsoring relative who is a member in good standing in the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants
- *Unweighted* GPA of 3.0 or better
- Typed double spaced 400–600-word essay on "How having a Mayflower ancestor impacted my life"
- Copy of school transcripts [Please note if home-schooled or dual-enrolled]
- Two letters of recommendation, one from a school official and one from a non-relative [Letters must indicate relationship to applicant]
- Separate list of extracurricular activities, honors received, leadership positions held, and information demonstrating community involvement
- Applicants are expected to write their essays on their own and without the assistance of artificial intelligence

A Mayflower Birthday to Celebrate

by Jennifer Champlain Vibral (daughter)

The Fuller Colony in Florida has a member, Orrin Champlain, who turned 100 years old on January 1, 2026. He is a descendant of John Billington (and 4 other Passengers).

Orrin Champlain III was born to Orrin Champlain Jr and Leeanna Wadleigh Champlain on January 1, 1926, in Newton, Mass., a suburb of Boston. Shortly thereafter, his family returned to their ancestral home in Old Lyme Connecticut, where he lived until the end of 9th grade.



Orrin Champlain III

In 1938, when he was 12, tragedy struck the east coast of America. The GREAT HURRICANE of 1938 struck with little warning. Houses, farms, boats, cars, islands, all washed away, with the people involved.

Moving to Philadelphia with his family, he attended Simon Gratz High School, graduating with honors and the Sr Class President. His life changed on Dec 7, 1941, as Pearl Harbor was attacked. The next day, he enlisted but had to continue to stay in school until he finished high school. His service began in the Army-Air Corps, and his goal was to become a pilot. By the time he had finished his Basic and Preparatory training, the war had ended. After the war, he enrolled at the University of Connecticut and continued his service to our country in the Army Reserves. A lifetime friendship was formed there, as his roommate was dating a lovely woman who had a beautiful cousin. Set up on a blind date after a Memorial Day parade, he saw her coming down the stairs at her parents' home, and thought, "I am going to marry her." She was thinking the same thought, and they both agreed it was love at first sight.

Upon graduation, Orrin was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the US Air Force and stationed at Otis Air Force Base in Hyannis, Mass. Less than a year later, he received orders to Denham Studios in England, a British and Allied Air Base. Their four-year stay in England was mostly wonderful. Denham Studios was near Chalfont St. Giles, where the Mayflower wood was used to build a barn. Denham Studios found new life, with the hangers used a movie production studio, and most recently for the Harry Potter series. Over their 72-year marriage, they would regularly go the England to visit the land of their youthful marriage.

Next stop was England Air Base in Alexandria, Louisiana, for 3.5 years. In 1959, he received orders for Korea, Osan Air Force Base in Pusan, Korea.

The family relocated to Connecticut for the year. The following year, all were reunited in a suburb of Tokyo, Japan, at Yokota Air

Force Base, in the Kanto Plains at the foot of Mt. Fuji. For almost two years it was wonderful. In 1961, a secret war started in Southeast Asia. In January of 1962, Orrin left for TDY and his first tour of duty in Vietnam. His assignment was to determine locations for future bases. During his assignment, his eldest son became ill, and upon his return, shortly thereafter, was evacuated back to Washington, DC, for medical treatment. Orrin was reassigned to Bolling Air Force Base and Command Headquarters.

In 1963, Orrin was recognized as Air Force Officer of the Year. As he was being photographed on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial for the Air Force Times cover, the photographer stopped the photo shoot as he was notified that President Kennedy had been shot. In 1964, the family welcomed a second son and mourned the loss of their eldest son.

In January of 1968, a year long "wrap up" tour of Vietnam in Command Logistics in MACV-SOG.

In June 1970, Orrin retired from the Air Force. At his retirement he was awarded the Bronze Star. Orrin was ready to retire to Florida but decided he was too young to retire, so he began a career in the Veteran's Administration, ending 22 years later at age 67.

And since 1970, he and his bride, Helen, moved to 9 more retirement homes. He is a veteran of WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War. He is a Shriner, a member of the VFW, a member of First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven, a former member of the Winter Haven Stamp Club, and a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. He is a descendant of John Billington (and 4 other Passengers).

Several notable ancestors include John Nixon, who supplied his Bank's funds to save George Washington at Valley Forge, and stayed on as staff. Nixon then was a representative at the Continental Congress, and was honored to read the Declaration of Independence to America for the first time; Sam Adams, who led the Boston tea Party revolt. His great grandfather, John Anderson Galloway, and his great uncle , George Galloway, were the first two brothers to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor (Civil War).



Coming in February 2026 from the US Mint





Description of the Mayflower Compact Quarter from the Mint:

The obverse design features two Pilgrims embracing as they behold the New World. The Pilgrims did not arrive at their intended destination; therefore, they did not hold a charter to establish a colony at Plymouth. Instead, the Mayflower Compact, signed November 21, 1620, established the colony as a mutual enterprise, and its force of law depended on the consent of the colonists themselves to promote the common good. The Mayflower Compact is considered a precursor to the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. The inscriptions are “E PLURIBUS UNUM,” “1776 ~ 2026,” and “IN GOD WE TRUST.”

The reverse design features the Mayflower, with full sails over rough seas, heading west. The Pilgrims aboard sought religious freedom in the New World, eventually landing at Cape Cod and settling in what later became Plymouth, Massachusetts. The inscriptions are “UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,” “LIBERTY,” “MAYFLOWER COMPACT,” and “25¢.”

General Society of Mayflower Descendants Board of Assistants Meeting

San Antonio, Texas, September 4–7, 2025

by James Preston



GSMD Board. Credit for images where not specified: Bill Cheshire

The Texas Mayflower Society welcomed the General Society Officers, Delegates, members, and guests to San Antonio, Texas, and the historic Menger Hotel directly next to The Alamo for the General Board of Assistants meeting. Business began Thursday with General Society committee meetings, followed by local tours of the area on Friday and the General Business session on Saturday. A grand reception and banquet topped off the evening at the hotel. We were treated to an interesting presentation by Blaine Bettinger, PhD, JD, a professional genealogist who spoke about the use of autosomal DNA evidence in genealogy research.

Governor General Lisa Pennington called the General Board of Assistants meeting to order Saturday morning to begin the business of the General Society. We learned from the Texas Society that two of the Texans at the battle of the Alamo had been Mayflower Descendants. The Executive Committee Officers gave updates on their extensive work for the Society. Our Florida folks were incredibly pleased when Governor General Pennington recognized our own Clara Waterman-Powell with a 2025 Distinguished



Davey Crockett at the Alamo.

Service Award. Governor Pennington reported that technology advances and the challenging work of the Research Center employees the application processing time is now less than 3 months, family members using the same lineage may result in a discount. As all new and prior applications are digitized (fifty-two thousand applications have been indexed through the EZ app generator volunteers), they are creating a better data base it making it possible to lower application fees in the future. An added new benefit for members was announced: a will is available for free.

Our Treasurer General Bart Henson reported an operating surplus for 2025 due to lowering expenses and engaging a professional fund raiser (CCS). Bart explained that 42% of the General Society revenue comes from annual member per capita, so they are always exploring better ways to general revenue. The financial health of the General Society is in excellent shape with overall equity increasing by $1 million dollars. Return on investments over the last 5 years has been at 20%. The Endowment Fund has reached $10 million.

Our Mayflower House needed many updates including roof repairs and replacing an antiquated electrical wiring system. The costs of improvements were $2.1 million, giving us a showcase home in excellent condition for years to come.





The meeting begins with the Color Guard pocession

The Pilgrim Meeting House acquired in 2017 is well into renovation. The roof repairs are complete. Interior work and the addition of a side entrance and elevator with handicap accessibility is planned along with an interactive history/learning area for guests to garner a better understanding of the Pilgrim story being the next phase. Through the work and dedication of former Governor General Lea Filson, over $10 million has been raised for the project. $5 million has been spent so far. $3.25 million has been contracted out for the completion of phase one. Lea continues to seek major donors and appreciates all donations. She reported that $6.9 million in bequests have been made through the "Free Will" project. That is future money promised from our membership. The goal of another $10 million to complete and operate the Meeting House is the aim of Governor Filson.

Our Florida delegation represented our state and enjoyed the opportunity to gather with members from across the nation and around the world to learn more about the Pilgrim adventure.



At the Alamo a squirrel burrows into the cool, most ground to seek relief from sweltering 104 F temperatures.

Florida Members attending:

James Preston, Deputy Governor General
Suzanne Adams, Assistant General
William P. Cheshire, Deputy Governor
Linda Anderson, Historian
Jacquelyn Arsenault, Elder
Adrienne Condon
April McCabe
Karen Sheffield





Deputy Governor General James Preston steps up to challenge a bylaws motion, and his winsome argument prevails.



Governor General Lisa Pennington and her husband, David Furlow at the Alamo. Image credit: Lisa Pennington.



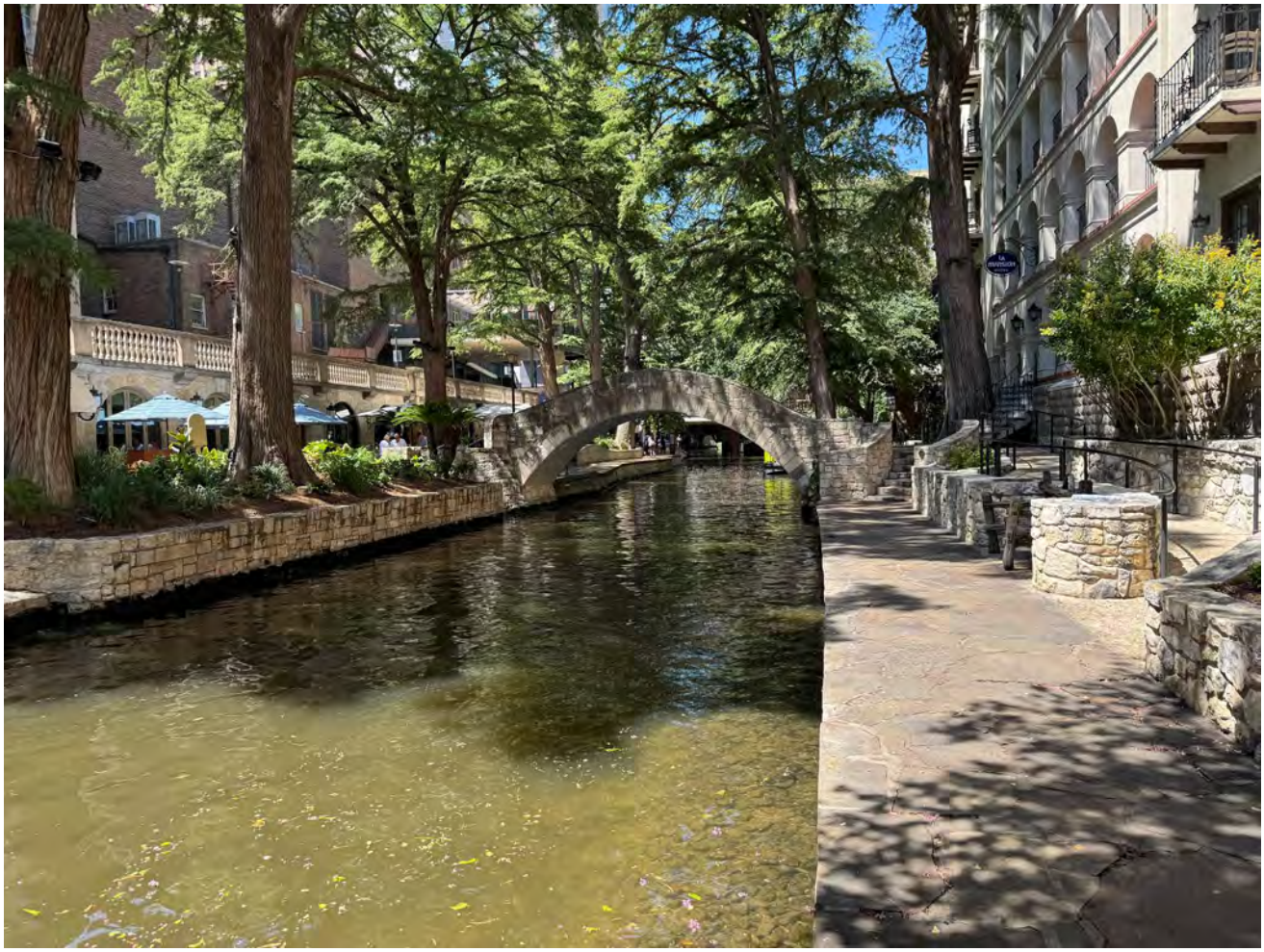
Governor General Lisa Pennington and Texas Mayflower Governor Nancy Freeman Powers honoring the three Mayflower descendants who fought at the Alamo in 1836: Amos Pollard and George Cottle. The teenage courier, Benjamin Highsmith, survived. James Bonham also was a Mayflower descendant. Image credit: Lisa Pennington.



Plaque honoring the founding of the Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants on December 24, 1931.



Roosevelt's Rough Riders, Troop D, in training in San Antonio, Texas, May 1898. Photograph in the lobby of the Menger Hotel.



The San Antoni Riverwalk.

Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants Board of Assistants Fall Meeting

Wesley Chapel, Florida, November 21–22, 2025

by William P. Cheshire

The William Bradford Colony welcomed the Florida Society Officers, Delegates, members, and guests to the Hyatt Place in Wesley Chapel, Florida, for the annual state Fall meeting.

During the premeeting social hour, while sipping on drinks and enjoying rich hors d'oeuvres, members had the opportunity of posing for photographs while standing in a stage prop painted model of the *Mayflower*.

Our host, Governor Robbie Robinson of the William Bradford Colony, warmly greeted the attendees. Elder Peggy Christie opened the meeting in prayer, after which Captain Dick Morris led the assembly in a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the Mayflower Compact.

Members enjoyed pleasant conversation



over a Thanksgiving dinner with turkey and fixings as well as a vegetarian alternative for those who requested it. After dinner, Governor Robinson led an interesting program entitled "The Four More Children on the Mayflower," which was well-received. Elder Peggy Christie closed the evening in prayer.

The next morning proceeded with the Board of Assistants Meeting followed by the General Membership Meeting.



Sharon Paugh, Florida Governor Brian McWaters, and Lynne Jensen. Image credit Kathy Robinson.



Kathy Robinson and Bradford Colony Governor Robbie Robinson. Image credit Kathy Robinson.



Bradford Colony Communications Director Shirley Smith and Terry Smith. Image credit Kathy Robinson.









Candid shots over dinner from Kathy Robinson.





Memorial Service with Elder Jackie Arsenault assisted by Marcea Oetting



Sue and David Nash with Marcea Oetting

Pilgrims in Love

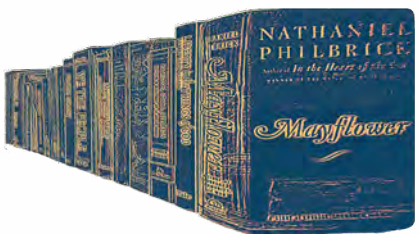
A New Video from The Mayflower Society

With Valentine's Day approaching, Mayflower Society Governor General Lisa Pennington invites you to travel back in time to the 17th century to hear from three pilgrim women as they share their amazing love stories. One involves a love triangle. Another tells of a scandalous affair and is filmed at the 1661 House where it actually happened. The third tells a story of a father's love and the daughter who must choose. To watch, click on the image below or direct your browser to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgEiUoraPjY





From the Archives



"This year's Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants Scholarship winner is Addie Jo Schonewolf, a 2007 graduating senior of South Caldwell High School in Hudson, North Carolina. FSMD Scholarship Chairman and Deputy Governor Robert E. Burt made the $1000.00 scholarship award announcement at the Annual Spring Board of Assistants Meeting. Addie is the daughter of Richard and Cynthia Schonewolf, and granddaughter of Beverly Schonewolf the Historian of the James Chilton Colony. She had perfect attendance all through high school, was on the "A" Honor Roll, receiving recognition for academic excellence. She is a National Merit semi-finalist and one of the school's nominees for the prestigious Morehead Scholarship. Addie is ranked as 11 of 364 and has a 4.0 GPA. Her United Methodist Church Director of Music and High School Counselor have sited [sic] many accolades. She has been accepted at The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and will study astrophysics."

The Florida Pilgrim, Vol. 32, No. 2, July, 2007

We found Addie living in Burnt Hills, New York, where she is now married and is an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church.

My Ancestors Were Rule-Breakers

by Addie Jo Schonewolf Originally published in *The Florida Pilgrim,* July 2007

I sat in the back of my Advanced Placement United States History class. I sat there not because I was unintelligent, bored beyond all comprehension, or extremely lazy. I sat there because I loved the look on my teacher's face when I raised my hand with the answer and stunning additional information, unknown to my classmates and teacher. It was, in my own small way, rebellious and unexpected (though the surprise only lasted a few days into the semester), I felt like I was changing the stereotype of lazy back row inhabitants and making life better for my fellow back-rowers everywhere. The Pilgrims, I think, must have felt in a similar way about a much more significant and justifiable cause.



Addie Jo Schonewolf

The Pilgrims, those who escapted from religious persecution in England to America, did the rebellious thing to fix life for 17th century "back-rowers." The scale of their rebellion is something that is still felt today. They went out and did something to change their station, an action which was not expected from lower class English citizens. In so doing, they changed the stereotype of peasant ignorance and unintelligence. As reformers of the Anglican church, they changed the view of monarchical absolute control

over the church. As authors of the first attempt at self-government, the Mayflower Compact, they changed the Old World way of government, opening up the door for the democracy America fights for today. These people, who left hearth and home for the hope of a start of a new life, set up a colony at Plymouth that still inspires students of history today with their dedication and ability to remain strong through trials and tribulations.

The amazing thing is that I can say that my ancestors were part of such important changes. It is something to be proud of, a heritage that is powerful. The accomplishments of the passengers of the Mayflower are a palpable part of the society in which I live. When I turn on the news and watch the government work, I see the results of the Pilgrims' labor. When I walk into my church on Sunday, Monday, or Wednesday, my eyes are confronted with a very concrete example of their influence. Of course, the most apparent example of their effect on my world was the week spent in my junior history class on their impact on the American nation, even before the American nation was the "forced alliance of very different peoples" that Thomas Jefferson named our early country.

Hundreds of years after the Mayflower left England, my life is bettered by their influence and not simply by a high grade on a paper in my history class. My Mayflower heritage means that my ancestors were part of the formation of a great society, and the fact that their influence can affect lives today says more than 500 words can express. To me, their effect today means I have something in my genealogical past to be proud of. My ancestors were rule-breakers and historical influencers that changed the face of the World. I have something in my history worthy of aspiration.

New Mayflower Videos

by Cherie Lawson, Member at Large

Plimoth Patuxet Museums has received a grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc (of the Lilly Corporation) to produce a series of films that examine the complex worldviews and beliefs that were central to the people who lived, traded, worked, and worshipped along the historic shores of change in Massachusetts during the 17th Century. The name of the Series is "The Light Here Kindled." This series of 14 short films is just now being offered for free use by all of us and would make excellent presentations at your meetings.

"Life Passages" and "Communities of Faith"give an overview of the Pilgrim experience through the story of Mayflower passenger Stephen Hopkins and his family. "The Reformations" and "Elements of Worship" explain how the Pilgrims' lives were shaped and informed by their faith and examines their spiritual practices including prayer, communion, charity, and holidays.

HOW TO SEE THEM? Simply go to the YouTube Channel of Plimoth Patuxet Museums (@ PlimothPatuxetMuseums). If you go directly to YouTube (at YouTube.com) you can put "Plimoth Patuxet Museums" in the Search Bar at the top and you will be taken to their channel. It will ask you if you would like to subscribe—which is free!

This series is just SO HIGH QUALITY that I wanted to make you all aware of it.

https://www.youtube.com/@PlimothPatuxet/videos



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.

JAMES CHILTON, The Villages

David L. Nash, Colony Governor

Take note, our colony will be hosting the Spring Board of Assistants meeting on April 24-25, 2026. All are welcome.

EDWARD DOTY, Pensacola

Karen Sutton, Colony Governor

On June 14, 2025, the Edward Doty Colony had the pleasure of being entertained by Mrs. Abigail Adams, wife of our second president, John. She was portrayed by none other than Marcea Oetting, Vice Governor of John Howland Colony in Orlando. Since it was FLAG day, she gave us a lesson on 20 flags from her time era dealing with local, military, and US Flags.

After the meeting, she wanted to visit the Naval Air Museum. I hadn't been to the museum in a couple of years, and they had a new exhibit of the Banshee plane. This particular plane had been in Vero Beach in



Pocahontas Park for years. I grew up with this plane and my children used to play on it. Except then it had no landing gear and the cockpit was full of cement.





Future Meeting Dates

2026 – Spring FSMD BoA Meeting - April 24-25, 2026

Hosted by the James Chilton Colony, The Villages, Florida

2026 – Triennial General Congress - September 11-15, 2026

Plymouth, Massachusetts

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

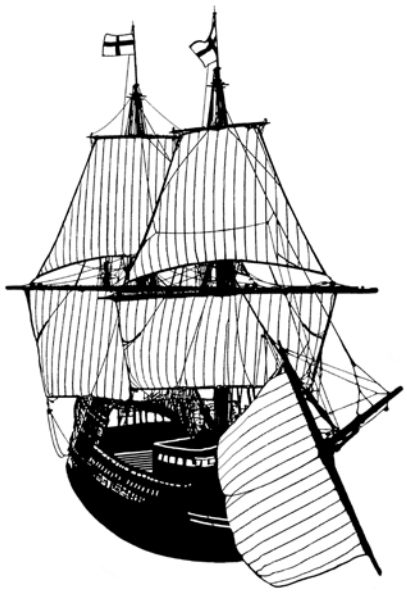
Hosted by the Stephen Hopkins Colony, Coco Beach, Florida

2027 – GBOA – Hosted by the Georgia Society, Atlanta, Georgia

2028 – GBOA – Hosted by the California Society

2029 – Triennial General Congress - Plymouth, Massachusetts

2030 – GBOA – Hosted by the Virginia Society



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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.

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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 two to 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.

PLYMOUTH 1620 FLORIDA 1937

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