



Pilgrim News

Spring 2018

A Letter from our Governor

Dear Cousins,

It is a great honor for me to serve as the 30th Governor of our Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants. Like all of you, I am proud of our shared Pilgrim heritage and am thrilled to lead our Society as we approach the 400th Anniversary of the Pilgrim Landing in 2020 and the 100th anniversary of our own Society's founding in 2022. We have much to celebrate!

My goals for our Society are simple:

Grow our membership. We have 288 Annual and Life Members, with an additional 19 applications pending in Plymouth waiting final approval. This number of pending applications is a record for our Society. I hope we can add at least 35 new members this year who want to share our Pilgrim fellowship.

Retain our members. Each year, we lose 20 to 25 members either to death or being dropped for non-payment of dues. We will be working with our Annual Members to retain as many as possible.

Create the best experience and a sense of belonging for all our members. This means creating the best programming we can at our meetings, enhancing our communication through the *Pilgrim News*, NebraskaMayflower.org and [Facebook.com/NebraskaMayflower](https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaMayflower), publishing an annual directory of members, and creating opportunities for any member who wants to be involved in advancing our Society.

Thanks to all our members who serve as an officer, as a member of the Board of Assistants, or as a project leader. Thank you for everything you do for our Society! I want to recognize three of our newest volunteers: **Verla Ringenberg** is developing our new membership directory, **Becky Martin** has joined our Scholarship Committee, and **Steve Hunt** is helping me in my Historian role as Historian's Assistant.

If you would like to be more involved in our Society, please let me know. I know we can match your interests with the current needs of the Society. And it's fun. Guaranteed! You can reach me at 402-709-3786 or mwbeerman@cox.net.

Finally, I hope you will join us for our Spring Meeting Luncheon on Sunday, April 22, at a new location: Embassy Suites LaVista. There is plenty of free parking and easy access to Interstate 80. Guest speaker is one of our newest members, Author, Storyteller and James Chilton Descendant Fran Ruh.

Looking forward to seeing many of you on April 22!

Marty Beerman
Governor & Historian

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Revisions Proposed to Constitution, By-Laws

Proposed revisions to the Nebraska Society's Constitution and By-Laws are included with this edition of *Pilgrim News*. Inclusion of these proposed changes in this newsletter serves as official notice to members of the proposed changes and the intent to vote on these changes at the April 22 and November 18 meetings.

The changes proposed more accurately reflect how the Society's business is actually conducted by Society officers.

Fall 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the Governor, Gretchen Harvey. The invocation was given by Ann Reinert, and a moment of silence was held for Karen Saunders. Captain Charles Harmon led the pledge of allegiance. The members and guests were introduced. The Mayflower Compact was read by Bob Harvey, and a roll call of the passengers was conducted by Marty Beerman.

The Minutes of the Spring 2017 meeting, as published in the Pilgrim News, were approved upon motion, second motion, and vote.

Kathryn Morrissey reported on a new project for our Society to help raise money to support the General Society's acquisition of the First Parish Church in Plymouth through the sale of lapel pins, which were especially designed for the project by Marty Beerman.

The following officers, as published in the Pilgrim News, were elected: Governor, Marty Beerman; Deputy Governor, Kathryn Morrissey; Secretary, Bonnie Kolowski; Treasurer, Robert Harvey; Historian, Marty Beerman; Elder, Ann Reinert; Counselor, Robert Laughlin; Public Relations, Tom Masters; Surgeon, Vacant; Board of Assistants: Cheryl Clark (2018), Stephanie Donsig (2018), John Keller (2018), Judith Moore (2018), DiAnna Schimek (2019), John Reinert (2019), Gretchen Harvey (past Governor); General Society and Other Officers: Deputy Governor General, Gretchen Harvey; Assistant General, Kathryn Morrissey; Newsletter Editor, Stephanie Donsig; Photographer, John Keller; Webmaster, Marty Beerman

During the course of the meeting, members and guests bid on items for our third annual silent auction for our scholarship fund which was organized by Cheryl Clark. While the auction totals were added up, Kathryn Morrissey was the host for our game of Mayflower Bingo. The silent auction winners were announced.

The meeting was adjourned.

2018 Directory of Officers

Governor | Marty Beerman
(402) 553-4118 or nebraskamayflower@gmail.com

Deputy Governor | Kathryn Morrissey
(402) 670-3836 or kathryn@cwsomaha.com

Secretary | Bonnie Kolowski
(402) 896-1765 or bkolowsk@hotmail.com

Treasurer | Robert Harvey
(402) 679-8232 or rharvey@gmail.com

Historian | Marty Beerman
(402) 553-4118 or mwbeerman@cox.net

Elder | Ann Reinert
(402) 483-1590 or mar68434@gmail.com

Counselor | Robert Laughlin
(402) 397-0868 or rallaw@radiks.net

Captain | Charles Harmon
(402) 290-2701 or cmfiddle1@cox.net

Pilgrim News Editor | Stephanie Donsig
(402) 326-5504 or sdonsig23@gmail.com

Public Relations | Thomas Masters
(402) 488-6004 or bec_corp@inetnebr.com

Surgeon | Vacant

Board of Assistants

Cheryl Clark (2018)
(308) 325-3849 or cherlyclark@q.com

Stephanie Donsig (2018)
(402) 326-5504 or sdonsig23@gmail.com

John Keller (2018)
(402) 489-2238 or jfk120@mac.com

Judith Moore (2018)
(402) 269-3480 or faysyracuse@outlook.com

John Reinert (2019)
(402) 432-9168 or jr6@aol.com

DiAnna Schimek (2019)
(402) 423-0262 or dschimek7@gmail.com

Gretchen Harvey (Past Governor)
(402) 896-5287 or nebraskamayflower@gmail.com

General Society Officers

Deputy Governor General | Gretchen Harvey

Assistant Governor General | Kathryn Morrissey

Chairs

Education: Kathryn Morrissey, Omaha

Junior Members: Stephanie Donsig, Lincoln

Membership: Marty Beerman, Omaha

Photographer: John Keller, Lincoln

Webmaster: Marty Beerman, Omaha

Member Directory: Verla Ringenberg, Lincoln

Scholarship: Gretchen Harvey, Omaha

Scholarship Auction: Cheryl Clark, Elwood



NebraskaMayflower.org

Visit www.NebraskaMayflower.org for the latest news, past issues of Pilgrim News and much more.

We're on Facebook, too. Like us at www.facebook.com/nebraskamayflower

Spring Meeting – Sunday, April 22, 2018

Spring Meeting RSVP Information

Please join us for our spring meeting on **Sunday, April 22, 2018** at 1:00 PM at a new location: Embassy Suites Hotel in LaVista, 12520 Westport Parkway. The new location was selected for its easy access to Interstate 80, ample free parking and competitive meal pricing. The menu is Embassy Salad (mixed greens, strawberries, goat cheese, and candied walnuts), Lemon Thyme Chicken (herb marinated chicken breast with balsamic glaze), chef's choice of vegetable, and a dessert. A vegetarian Spanish stuffed pepper is also available.

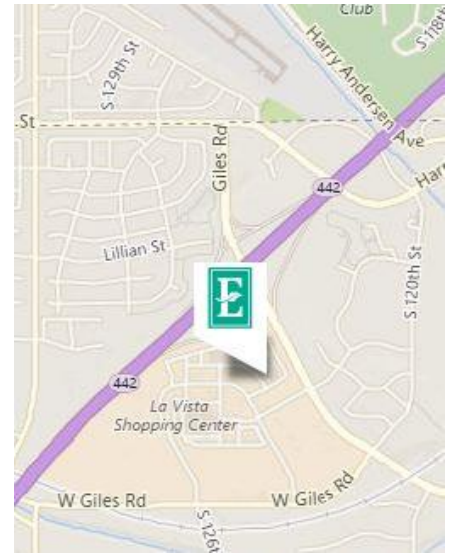
Please RSVP by **April 13, 2018** so we can provide our final count to the hotel. Send your reservation form (insert in this newsletter) and checks payable to the Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants to **Bonnie Kolowski, 4815 South 158th Circle, Omaha, NE 68135** or pay online at www.NebraskaMayflower.org/dues using Paypal or a credit card. The cost for the dinner is \$35.00 per person.

To reach the hotel, from I-80 (either direction), take the Giles Road Exit (Exit 442). Turn south onto Giles Road and take the next right onto Southport Parkway. Make your first right onto Westport Parkway and the hotel is on your right.

The Board of Assistants will meet at noon before the Dinner meeting. As a member of our Society, you are always welcome to attend our Board of Assistants meeting.

New Member Fran Ruh is Spring Meeting Speaker

Fran Ruh, a descendent of Pilgrim James Chilton and one of the Nebraska Society's newest members, is the author of *The Schepp Family Chronicles*. She is the family historian, storyteller and great-granddaughter of Fredrick Schepp, the family patriarch. She grew up in Kansas and Omaha and has retired from a 25-year career in commercial real estate. Fran, her husband, Ron and their fluffy dog, Misty, live in Omaha near their two sons and five grandchildren. They enjoy spending time at the original family home, a ranch on Deep Creek in the rugged Flint Hills near Manhattan, Kansas. She is also the author of two novels, *Question Everything* and *Risk Everything*.



The hotel is just off I-80 at Exit 442. See the detailed directions in the article.



Fran Ruh, a new member, is our spring speaker.

2018 Spring Meeting Reservation Form

Member Name(s): _____

Guests: _____

Adult(s): _____ @ \$35.00/meal Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Number of Chicken Meals _____ Number of Vegetarian Meals _____

Please send this form and checks payable to the **Nebraska Mayflower Society** by April 13 to Bonnie Kolowski, 4815 S. 158th Circle, Omaha, NE, 68135.

When: Sunday, April 22 at 1 p.m.

Where: Embassy Suites LaVista
12520 Westport Pkwy,
La Vista

Menu: Salad & Lemon-Thyme
Chicken or Stuffed Pepper

First Parish Meeting House & Church

-- The Paul Revere Bell



The Paul Revere bell was recast after the fire of 1892. The bell still rings daily, using an automated ringer.

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants has taken on the challenge of raising funds to buy and to refurbish the historic First Parish Meetinghouse also known as The National Memorial Pilgrim Church. The General Society is asking each state society – including ours -- to participate in fundraising for this project over the next three years. Our goal is \$5,000. This series of articles tells the story behind this building and, we hope, inspires you to consider donations to the project. You can buy a pin or make a direct donation at the GSMD's website, themayflowersociety.org; look under the DONATE tab for Meetinghouse

The fifth (and current) church is built on the site where the Pilgrims gathered in their meetinghouse nearly 400 years ago. It is "ground zero" for the beginning of America's odyssey toward both religious and civic freedom. It seems only natural then that this building has a strong connection to one of the famous patriots of the Revolutionary War. Here's the story!

The first reference to a "town bell" at this site was in 1679. At a Plymouth town meeting, a vote was passed to install a bell in the turret of the 1648 Meetinghouse set at the foot of Burial Hill. The bell must have gotten a lot of

use over the years because in 1732, a new one was purchased to replace it. By 1794, another bell was needed and donated by Mrs. Elizabeth Russell to commemorate the home of her birth. Like our pilgrim ancestors, that bell came to Plymouth's shores by ship from England and weighed in at 564 pounds. While I'm not sure what causes bells to break, this English bell suffered that fate in 1801. Here's where the well-known midnight rider comes into the picture.

By 1831, the parish's 1744 Meetinghouse was badly worn and was torn down. The parish paid \$10,000 to put in its place a wooden church in the popular Gothic style. As part of this building project, the selectmen of Plymouth received a bill from Mr. Paul Revere of Boston for \$375.12 for a bell weighing 844 2/8 pounds. (As a quick aside, after helping win the War of Independence, Paul Revere returned to this silversmith trade. Revere was so successful that he was able to expand his business into iron casting, bronze bell casting and cannon casting. In 1800, he became the first American to roll copper into sheets that were used as sheathing for naval vessels.)

The Paul Revere Bell was hung in the church's Gothic tower where it rang for 61 years. In 1892, the Meetinghouse was undergoing an extensive renovation. Heating furnaces were running at their maximum to dry out newly installed plaster when a fire started in the basement – spread to the chimney – and eventually resulted in a smoldering heap where once a church had stood. The bell tower collapsed and when the Paul Revere bell struck the ground it shattered. Fortunately, the parish was able to recover the broken bits and recast the bell. In 1896, a crowd of about 500 assembled in the Town Square to hear the peal of curfew from the new Revere Town bell. Today, visitors and townspeople hear the bells chime several times a day. It's a reminder of times past when the town bell called its citizens to wake, to pray, to arms, to mourn and to celebrate.

Kathryn Morrissey

SAVE THESE DATES!

Fall 2018 Meeting

Our Fall 2018 meeting and dinner will be on Sunday November 18. Location and start time will be announced shortly.

Summer 2018 Meeting

Our Summer 2018 meeting will be at Lauritzen Gardens on Saturday, July 7. A private tour will be followed by lunch in the Gardens' cafe.

Show Your Pilgrim Pride

Beautiful new Nebraska Mayflower lapel pins (design below) are available for a \$10 donation to support the General Society's acquisition of the First Parish Church in Plymouth. To order a pin, choose one of the following:

1. Make a \$10 donation at the Spring Meeting. Pins can be picked up at the meeting.
2. Make an \$11 donation online at NebraskaMayflower.org (includes \$1 for packaging and mailing). At the top right of the homepage, click on Dues and Donations to make a donation securely through PayPal or by credit card payment.
3. Send your \$11 check (includes \$1 for packaging and mailing) to Kathryn Morrissey, First Parish Church Project Chair, 681 North 57th Ave., Omaha, NE 68132.

Show your Pilgrim Pride and support the General Society's preservation of the Pilgrim's First Parish Meetinghouse & Church.



Welcome New Members!

Name	Number	Residence	Ancestor
Francis Jane (Dumas) Bratt	92364-1113	Omaha	John Howland
Ellen Marie Genevieve Beerman	92514-1114	Omaha	Richard Warren
Simone Allegra Duryea	92515-1115	USAF Academy, CO	William Brewster
Rebecca Joyce (Hillman) Martin	92535-1116	Lincoln	William White
Susan Elizabeth (Balfour) Rice	92559-1117	Nehawka	Richard Warren
LaVonne Joyce (Alberts) Portz	92605-1118	Haysville, KS	Richard Warren
Ronald Gale Fink Jr.	92666-1119	Harrison	Francis Cooke
Emily Anne (Duryea) Meidl	92733-1120	Omaha	William Brewster
Charla Joann (Davis) Pureau	92855-1121	Federal Way, WA	Richard Warren

In Memoriam

C. Paul Duryea Jr.

Deceased Nov. 5, 2017

A descendant of William Brewster

Joined 2016

Joyce Elaine (Ford) Oatman

Deceased July 2, 2017

A descendant of William Brewster

Joined 2000

We care about each of our members, so please let us know immediately of any member's illness or death. Send updates to mwbeerman@cox.net

Governors, past and present, at Fall Meeting



From left: Barbara Laughlin 1994-1997; Ann Reinert 2010-2012; Walt Davis 2007-2009; Gretchen Harvey 2013-2017; Charles Harmon 2001-2006; and Marty Beerman.



Pilgrim Bingo

At the fall meeting, Kathryn Morrissey led several lively rounds of bingo based on the Pilgrims and the Mayflower.

March 31, 2018 Deadline for Scholarship Applications

At our spring meeting on April 22, 2018, we will be awarding the fourth Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants Burt & Becky Whedon Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1620 to a high school senior planning on attending an accredited 4-year college or university.

An avid genealogist, Becky (Allen) Whedon joined the Nebraska Society in 1982, a descendant of Pilgrim Francis Cooke, as well as Pilgrim Richard Warren. Becky served our Society's historian for 18 years, from 1989 to 2007, completing applications for 167 members. Burt joined the Nebraska Society in 1977, a descendant of John Howland, as well as William Brewster. The Whedons also served the Society as Deputy Governor General and Assistant General for many years, traveling to Plymouth for Mayflower General Congress and to the annual Board of Assistants meetings around the country. Becky died in Omaha on January 16, 2011, at the age of 84. Burt died in Omaha on April 27, 2011, at the age of 88.

Scholarship applicants must be residents of Nebraska and United States citizens.

Treasurer's Report Bob Harvey

NSMD - SPRING 2018 REPORT

CASH ON HAND, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 \$ 4,956.89

INCOME

National Dues	162 @ 15	\$	2,430.00
State Dues	162 @ 10	\$	1,620.00
Lifetime Membership	1 @ 750	\$	750.00
Applications	33 @ 25	\$	825.00
Scholarship Donations		\$	1,583.00
First Parish Restoration Donations		\$	458.50
Member Name Tags	3 @ 17.50	\$	52.50
Fall Meeting Meals	39 @ 35	\$	1,365.00
Donation to Cover Website Development		\$	546.25
Interest - Checking		\$	1.52
			<u>\$ 9,631.77</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

Website Costs (Domain and Design)	\$	938.14
Historian Supplies	\$	278.42
Historian Postage	\$	372.63
Postage Expenses	\$	3.70
Member Name Tags	\$	64.20
National Society Fees	\$	48.35
PayPal Fees	\$	61.07
Fall Meeting Expenses (Meals & Meeting Space)	\$	1,696.85
		<u>\$ (3,463.36)</u>

CASH ON HAND, FEBRUARY 28, 2018 \$11,125.30

OTHER ASSETS

CD - 712679 1.45% (Matures 10/3/20)	\$	15,978.44
		<u>\$15,978.44</u>

TOTAL ASSETS

\$27,103.74

Applications will be evaluated by a written essay, GPA and class rank, ACT or SAT scores, honors received, school or volunteer activities, employment, demonstrated leadership, and a letter of recommendation from a teacher or guidance counselor. Mayflower ancestry is NOT a requirement.

You will find the information needed to apply at our website, NebraskaMayflower.org.

The applications must be submitted via U.S. mail and postmarked by **March 31, 2018**, to:

Gretchen Harvey,
Scholarship Chair
Nebraska Society of
Mayflower Descendants
17503 V Street
Omaha, NE 68135

Meet Our New Governor!

Thanksgiving has always been Marty Beerman's favorite holiday. It became even more significant when he learned more than 30 years ago that he can trace his ancestry to Mayflower Passenger and Compact Signer Richard Warren. A love of history and insatiable curiosity continue to fuel Marty's passion for genealogy.

He joined the Nebraska Society in 1990. He's a former *Pilgrim News* editor. In addition to serving now as Governor, he has been the Society's Historian for more than eight years. Marty launched the Society's first website and three subsequent sites. He also created and maintains the Nebraska Society's membership database.

In addition to the Mayflower Society, Marty is a member of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution, National



Martin W. Beerman joined the Nebraska Society in 1990.

Society Sons of Union Veterans, General Society War of 1812, The National Society Magna Charta Dames and Barons as well as 10 other lineage societies.

His "day job" is vice president of marketing and community relations at Children's Hospital & Medical Center in Omaha, where he's worked for 11 years. He chairs the New Cassel Foundation Board and is a member of the Omaha Children's Museum Board of Directors.

Marty has a master's degree in health care administration from Bellevue University and a bachelor's degree in journalism and communications (with a minor in history, of course!) from Creighton University.

He lives in Omaha with his wife of 33 years, Jane, and an eclectic assortment of dogs, including two Pembroke Welsh Corgis, a yellow Lab, a Westie and an Australian cattle dog/terrier/pinscher/we-don't know-what, plus a cat with an attitude. Four of the family's six animals are rescues.

Marty's son, Willy, graduates this spring from the University of Nebraska College of Law. His daughter, Ellen, works in marketing for Caesar's Entertainment in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Both Willy and Ellen are Nebraska Society members.

Beyond work and caring for their menagerie, Marty and Jane love to travel. No surprise, their journeys often lead to a cemetery or two along the way!

Membership Report

The Nebraska Society began 2017 with 290 Annual and Life Members.

In 2017:

12 new members joined.

9 members died or their deaths in prior years were discovered.

9 members were dropped for non-payment of dues for 2016 and 2017.

We began 2018, then, with 284 members. Since Jan. 1, 5 new member applications have been approved, bringing the current membership total to 289. A total of 19 additional new member applications are pending final approval in Plymouth.

Junior Membership

The gift of a junior membership ensures that your family history is preserved and remembered. If you know someone under the age of 18 who is related by an established bloodline to a sponsor (either a present or past member of the Mayflower Society), then consider sponsoring that person to become a junior member. The application process is simple and costs \$20. Junior membership expires at age 25; between the ages of 18 and 25, a junior member can become a member of our state society through the regular application process. The Junior Membership Application Form is on our website, NebraskaMayflower.org



Pilgrim News

8704 Douglas St
Omaha, NE 68114-4035

2017 Fall Meeting – Members and Families (courtesy of John Keller)

