



Pilgrim News

Nebraska Mayflower Society Newsletter

Volume 33, Issue 2

Fall 2013

The Governor's Message

I hope that all of you have had a great summer. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our annual meeting.

In September, Charles Harmon (our Deputy Governor General) and I, along with our spouses, had the privilege of attending the General Board of Assistants meeting in New Orleans. At the meeting, we discussed and made recommendations to next year's Congress in Plymouth about various amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of our General Society. One of the most visible changes to our Society in the last year is the addition of an Executive Director position. The hope is that the new Executive Director will be able to bring some continuity to the management of our Society, and will be able to bring new life to areas such as outreach and fundraising, to help bring the story of the Mayflower and her passengers to even more people and future generations. Chuck and I had an opportunity to meet the new Executive Director, Walter Powell, and we wish him the best of luck, and hope for his success in helping to lead our General Society. I am always honored to be able to make this trip on behalf of our society, and the four of us had a wonderful time in New Orleans. All of us enjoyed seeing our Mayflower cousins and friends from across the country, whom we have come to know by attending these gatherings, and we also enjoyed seeing new faces, and discovering all of the wonderful food and entertainment that New Orleans has to offer.

This year, we are fortunate to have Professor Joel Starita, a Pulitzer Prize nominated journalist, as our speaker. Please see page 3 for more information about our annual meeting.

Gretchen Harvey, Governor



Gretchen Harvey with son Robert — at Mayflower Society Summer Get Together.

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2013 Directory of Officers

Governor: Gretchen Harvey
(402) 896-5287 or gkharvey01@aol.com

Deputy Governor: DiAnna Schimek
(402) 423-0262 or dschimek7@gmail.com

Secretary: Charles L. (Rob) Robinson
(402) 558-6808 or husker99999@aol.com

Treasurer: Karen Saunders
(402) 269-2259 or ksaunde5@hotmail.com

Historian: Judy Moore
(402) 269-3480 or fay78216@gmail.com

Elder: Ann Reinert
(402) 483-1590 or mar68506@yahoo.com

Counselor: Robert Laughlin
(402) 397-0868 or rallow@radiks.net

Surgeon: Dr. Luther Palmer Johnson
(402) 489-9875 or hjh1040@aol.com

Captain: Glenn Wesley Dicken
(402) 316-0634 or safetywes@hotmail.com

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

Pilgrim News Editor: Vicki Westerhaus
(913) 681-0066 or vwesterhaus@stinson.com

Board of Assistants

Betty Rejda (2013)
(308) 346-4883 or brejda@threeriverwb.net

Shirley Johnson (2013)
(402) 489-9875 or hjh10408@aol.com

Cheryl Clark (2014)
(308) 325-3849 or cherylclark@q.com

Betty Albanez (2014)
(402)292-9532 or bjalbanez@cox.net

Dr. Priscilla Grew (2015)
(402) 472-3779 or pgrew1@unl.edu

Kim Butler (2015)
(402) 660-3061 or kcbdar@cox.net

Stephanie Donsig (2015)
(402) 465-5493 or sdonsig23@gmail.com

Kathryn Morrissey (2015)
(402) 558-9859 or kathryn@cwsomaha.com

General Society Officers

Deputy Governor General

Charles Harmon
(712) 366-6393 or cmfiddle1@cox.net

Assistant General

Gretchen Harvey
(402) 896-5287 or gkharvey01@aol.com

NEBRASKA SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS SPRING MEETING APRIL 28, 2013 MARRIOTT HOTEL, OMAHA

The meeting was called to order by the Governor, Gretchen Harvey. The Invocation was given by Elder Ann Reinert. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Captain Glenn Wesley Dicken.

The attending members and guests were introduced. The Mayflower Compact was read and a roll call of members by original passengers was conducted. The Minutes of the last meeting, as published in the Pilgrim News was, upon motion, second and vote, approved.

The Treasurer's report as appearing in the Pilgrim News was approved on motion, second and vote. The checking account balance was \$3,125.23 and total assets were \$18,169.33.

The Counselor, Robert Laughlin presented the proposed amendment to Article V, Section 5 of the By-Laws, establishing the reinstatement fee at \$15. Upon motion, second and vote, the amendment was adopted.

The Governor discussed various matters and developments.

A program was presented by Valeria Orlandini, a professional document archivist, who discussed her previous work: "Thomas Jefferson Bible at the Smithsonian Institution; Discovering the history and value behind this Iconic National Treasure."

The Benediction was given by Elder Ann Reinert. The meeting was adjourned.

Charles L. Robinson, Secretary

We welcome your input

We welcome and encourage member input and articles for the Pilgrim News. If anyone has a story, article, or other news item of interest to our members that they would like to have published in an upcoming edition, please contact us at nebraskamayflower@gmail.com.

If you know of a junior applicant under the age of 18, who is related by established bloodline to the sponsoring present or past member of the society, that person is eligible to become a junior member. There is a one time application fee of \$20.00, and there are no further fees. The junior membership would expire at the age of 25.

Pilgrim News in color is better!

The last newsletter was a special edition to show how nice it is to see our pages in living color.

To receive your newsletter in color and without the delay of "snail mail," just drop us a quick line by email at nebraskamayflower@gmail.com and we will return a full color edition to you—saving postage in the process!

Annual Meeting— Sunday, November 24th

Noted Professor to Discuss Standing Bear Trial

Professor Joe Starita, a Pulitzer Prize-nominated journalist and professor in the Journalism Department at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, will discuss the trial of Standing Bear at our Nov. 24 annual meeting. An accomplished author, Professor Starita will share details from his book on the trial of Standing Bear, which was made into a documentary film by NET.

The title of Professor Starita's presentation is "Chief Standing Bear: How the Power of Social Justice Can Change Our Lives." Many of you will know that Standing Bear was the Ponca Indian Chief who in 1879 sought to return from the reservation in Oklahoma to his homeland on the Niobrara River in northeast Nebraska to bury his son.

Standing Bear was captured by the Federal Government, and sought to gain his freedom using the writ of Habeas Corpus, available to "any person" under the law. The Federal Court for the District of Nebraska, Judge Elmer Dundy, found that Standing Bear was a person under the law, and thus was entitled to his freedom. This was a seminal moment in American Civil Rights and it happened right here in Nebraska.



Standing Bear was represented by the two leading local attorneys of the day: Andrew Poppleton and John Lee Webster, both of whom also represented the Union Pacific Railroad. John Lee Webster was the speaker at our Society's first annual fall dinner in 1923. Mr. Webster spoke about the relationship between the United States Constitution and the Mayflower Compact. That Compact and the Journey of the Mayflower Pilgrims remain as relevant today as they were nearly four hundred years ago. Our Mayflower ancestors in 1620 began the American Journey for Justice: in their case justice meant freedom from religious tyranny. That journey has continued through wars and movements and marches and speeches, right down to the present day, when we are still struggling to define what justice is, and who is entitled to it.

Standing Bear took his part in that journey when he walked from Oklahoma to Nebraska, stepped into a federal courtroom as a prisoner with few if any rights, and stepped out as a free man. I think you will enjoy hearing Professor Starita bring more of this exciting journey to life in a presentation that will make you think about just what it means to be an American.

**Please join us for our Fall Meeting and Thanksgiving Dinner
on Sunday, November 24 at 1 p.m.**

The Knoll's Country Club in Lincoln, 2201 Old Cheney Road

RSVP by November 18, 2013

Please send reservation form (see Newsletter page 4) and check (payable to the Nebraska Mayflower Society) to Karen Saunders, 1213 North 30th Road, Syracuse, NE 68446.

Traditional Thanksgiving dinner will be served.

Adult Meal \$24

Children's Meal \$15

**The Board of Assistants will meet at 11 a.m. before the Sunday meeting.
That meeting is open to any member who is interested.**

New Orleans Conference Highlights

Charles and Martha Harmon joined our hardworking and fearless Governor, Gretchen Harvey, and her husband, Bill, in New Orleans to attend The Board of Assistants meeting for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. There, they were able to renew old friendships and make many new friends. Gretchen said that she enjoyed meeting and talking with the new Executive Director of the GSMD, Walter Powell, and was interested in hearing about plans GSMD is formulating for the coming years.

The Harveys had free day and Friday, advantage to They spent time Quarter, toured Cathedral, listened to the "street" musicians, shopped, took a cruise on the Natchez Steamboat and went through the aquarium on the water front which was within walking distance. They also took time to see the HOUMAS HOUSE plantation and gardens. It is known as "The Sugar Palace, Crown Jewel of Louisiana's River Road." It is one of the South's oldest and most beautiful plantation estates.



St. Louis Cathedral

lating for the mons and Har-time on Thurs-and took full sight-see. in the French the St. Louis tened to the

During the afternoon, several amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws were considered concerning Nomination, Election and Duties of the General Officers. The proposed changes were acted on and will be submitted to the General Congress in 2014 for final consideration and approval.

Planning for the 2020 Board of Assistants meeting is already underway, with Harry Folger, III heading the planning committee. The 2015 Board will be hosted by the Indiana Society of Assistants by the Con- and in 2016 by Society. Evening the Harveys quiet at An- mous New rant located just a few blocks from their hotel. They were entertained with Dixieland music.



Martha, Charles & Gretchen in La.

The conference speakers, Kari Brewelheide and Doug Owsley, were archeologists from the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. who are involved in the Jamestown, Virginia dig to uncover and identify remains from that early colony. Their presentation was informative and quite interesting.

Thank you, Charles Harmon, for your excellent report!

Mark Your Calendars

April 27, 2014, Spring Dinner and Meeting. We will choose a location for the spring meeting following our fall meeting.

July 12, 2014, Summer Get Together for our members and their families. Meeting location to be announced in newsletter. Please contact us with ideas or to help with planning!



Fall 2013 Meeting Reservation Form

Member Name (s): _____

Guests: _____

\$24 per adult: _____

\$15 per child _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____



When: November 24, 2013, at 1:00 p.m.

Where: The Knoll's Country Club in Lincoln
2201 Old Cheney Road

Menu: Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner

Please send this form and checks payable to the Nebraska Mayflower Society by **November 18, 2013**, to: Karen Saunders, 1213 North 30th Road, Syracuse, NE 68446

Welcome New Members

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Residence</u> | <u>Ancestor</u> |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Darlene (Swartz) Miltner | 85689 | Lincoln, NE | Richard Warren |
| Sharon (Hanson) Frey | 85731 | Omaha, NE | John Howland |
| Mark Douglas Frey | 85889 | Omaha, NE | Edward Fuller |
| Carol (Pelican) Hietbrink* | 86002 | Blair, NE | Richard Warren |

*new National #

- Judy Moore, Historian

In Memoriam



Elizabeth Rebman

DOB: December 7, 1916
DOD: August 5, 2013
Descendant of George Soule
Elected 1999

Stanley Thornton

DOB: August 10, 1928
DOD: December, 2011
Descendant of Francis Cooke
Elected 1984

Marjorie Culp

DOB: April 17, 1928
DOD: July 6, 2013
Descendant of John Alden
Elected 1975

Wayne Wilson

DOB: February 12, 1923
DOD: December 12, 2012
Descendant of Stephen Hopkins
Elected 1998



2014 Officers and Board Assistants

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following Officers and Board Assistants for 2014:

Officers:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Governor: Gretchen Harvey | Deputy Governor: DiAnna Schimek |
| Secretary: Charles L. (Rob) Robinson | Treasurer: Karen Saunders |
| Historian: Judy Moore | Elder: Ann Reinert |
| Counselor: Robert Laughlin | Surgeon: Dr. Luther Palmer Johnson |
| Captain: Glenn Wesley Dicken | Public Relations: Thomas Masters |
| News Editor: Vicki Westerhaus | |

Board of Assistants

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cheryl Clark (2014) | Betty Albanez (2014) | Dr. Pricilla Grew (2015) |
| Stephanie Donsig (2015) | Kathryn Morrissey (2015) | Kim Butler (2015) |
| John Reinert (2016) | Robert Harvey (2016) | |

General Society Officers:

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Deputy Governor General Charles Harmon | Assistant General Gretchen Harvey |
|---|--------------------------------------|

Help—Help—Help

We need your help to keep our records updated. If you know of any member who has recently moved, please let us know. We also care about each of our members, so also please let us know immediately of any member's death or illness. Our email: nebraskamayflower@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

Respectfully Submitted By Karen Saunders, Treasurer

BALANCE ON HAND--UNION BANK February 28, 2013 \$ 3,125.33

INCOME:

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|
| National Dues | 73 @ \$11.00 | \$ 803.00 | |
| State Dues | 73 @ 9.00 | 657.00 | |
| Applications | 18 @ 50.00 | 900.00 | |
| | 1 @ 100.00 | 100.00 | |
| Junior Memberships | 7 @ 20.00 | 140.00 | |
| Interest—Checking | | 1.43 | |
| Spring dinner | (37) | 740.00 | |
| Book Fund Donation | | <u>60.00</u> | |
| TOTAL INCOME | | | <u>3,401.43</u> |
| TOTAL | | | \$ 6,526.76 |

DISBURSEMENTS:

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|-----------|------------------------|
| Spring Dinner | | \$ 855.95 | |
| Pilgrim News—Spring Printing | | 282.14 | |
| -Postage | | 81.16 | |
| Treasurer-Postage | | 105.12 | |
| -Printing Dues Notice | | 8.47 | |
| Historian-Postage | | 53.69 | |
| -Copies | | 45.91 | |
| -Supplies | | 32.05 | |
| -Books | | 37.00 | |
| TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS | | | <u>1,511.49</u> |

BALANCE ON HAND--UNION BANK October 1, 2013 \$ 5,015.27

OTHER ASSETS

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| CD #455909 (due 9-19-14)—1.60% | \$6,178.21 | |
| CD #483799 (due 2-06-16)—.70% | 1,785.49 | |
| CD #501054 (due 10-28-14)—1.24% | <u>7,423.80</u> | |
| TOTAL OTHER ASSETS | | <u>\$15,387.50</u> |

TOTAL ASSETS October 1, 2013 \$20,402.77



Kathryn Morrissey

In The News

A big thank you to Kathryn Morrissey for continuing her great educational outreach work, educating students through “playing pilgrim” at schools in the Omaha area. She plans to visit St. Margaret Mary school in November. Kathryn has generously offered to “share notes” with others who are interested in doing something similar, or even to visit a school in the Omaha area where a member has a child or grandchild attending.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Saunders



ATTENTION ALL DUES PAYING MEMBERS

Dues for 2014 are now due, but the good news is that dues are still only \$20.00 per year. For all who paid 2013 dues, “Thank You!” For those who have not, please “catch up” for 2013 and also pay now for 2014. If you’re not sure, just send us an email at nebraskamayflower@gmail.com. We will get right back in touch with you. Please take a moment to send in your dues today—make checks payable to Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants. While you’re at it, please send us your current contact information so we can stay in touch.

Please send payments to:

Karen Saunders, Treasurer
Nebraska Mayflower Society
1213 North 30th Road
Syracuse, NE 68446

Amount Paid: \$ _____

Your name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Junior Member Corner

Welcome Aboard, Junior Members!

Laurel Christine Nelson

Sponsor: Christine Wingate Nelson
Ancestor: John Howland

Rachel Marq Nelson

Sponsor: Christine Wingate Nelson
Ancestor: John Howland

Hayden Robert Fischer

Sponsor: Marilyn M. (Miller) Fischer
Ancestor(s): John Billington, William
Brewster, Peter Brown, Francis Cooke

Chloe Grace Fischer

Sponsor: Marilyn M. (Miller) Fischer
Ancestor(s): John Billington, William
Brewster, Peter Brown, Francis Cooke

Abigail Cameron Fischer

Sponsor: Marilyn M. (Miller) Fischer
Ancestor(s): John Billington, William
Brewster, Peter Brown, Francis Cooke

*With these five new members since
our Spring Meeting, we now have a
total of 31 junior members.*



Behind the Scenes Husker Tour

Junior members and their families enjoyed a tour of Memorial Stadium during our Summer Get Together on July 13, 2013. Tour highlights included the lucky horseshoe, the new Suh weight room, the practice complex and seeing the new turf being installed on the field. After the tour, the group had a delicious lunch in the party room at Misty's.



Junior Member Nick Westerhaus fulfills his promise to grandpa by touching Huskers' lucky horseshoe!

If you know of a junior applicant under the age of 18, who is related by established bloodline to the sponsoring present or past member of the society, that person is eligible to become a junior member. There is a one time application fee of \$20.00, and there are no further fees. The junior membership would expire at the age of 25. Between the ages of 18 and 25, the junior member would become a member of the state society through the regular application process. Please feel free to contact our society at nebraskamayflower@gmail.com, and we will forward on an application to anyone interested in sponsoring a junior member. If you prefer, feel free to give Gretchen Harvey a call at (402) 896-5287, and she will send you the application through the mail.

Why Not Give A Junior Membership For Christmas?

The one-time fee for junior membership is only \$20 and the application process is easy. Just send an email to nebraskamayflower@gmail.com and we can provide you with all the information you need to complete the application process.

Pilgrim News

Vicki Westerhaus, Editor

9313 W. 139th Street

Overland Park, KS 66221

GSMD Launches 2020 Logo Contest

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants invites all State Society members to participate in a competition to create a national logo for celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower sailing and landing in Plymouth, and establishing the Pilgrim colony.

To insure that good ideas are not excluded, there will be no limit to the number of entries a state or its members may submit. All entries for the contest should be received by the Chair of the 2020 Committee Logo Contest before **April 15, 2014**.

An independent jury of marketing professionals will review each entry and recommend a base group to the committee. Five of those entries will be published in the June Issue of the Mayflower Quarterly and those who wish to vote may do so. The winner will be announced at the triennial meeting of the General Congress in September 2014.

All entries will become the property of the GSMD unless the applicant is notified otherwise. More than one logo may be chosen for use by GSMD for special marketing applications of the 2020 celebration. If chosen as the winner, your submittal will be trademarked as a national GSMD logo. Prizes will be awarded to the top three logos selected. You will not be entitled to any other compensation.

More information will be in the December Mayflower Quarterly.

Seeking Relatives of George Soule

Elizabeth Radley of New York writes: "I recently was approved by the Mayflower Society as a descendant of George Soule. Since the last place of residence for the Soule family I am related to is Nebraska, I wonder if you have any members who are related. If so, it would be great if you could pass along my email address (BetsJRad@aol.com) as I would love hearing from them."

In Memoriam



Elizabeth "Ib" Julia (Wilmot) Rebman, daughter of Claude and Ruth (Byrum) Wilmot, died on August 5, 2013. Born in Bloomington, Nebraska on December 7, 1916, she spent her early years in Naponee, Lincoln, and Bloomington where she graduated from high school. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta at UNK and attended the School of Nursing at UNL Medical Center in Omaha.

Ib moved to Alma, Nebraska on June 19, 1937 as the bride of Ralph William Rebman. She was active in nursing for over 50 years. The Rebmans moved to Lincoln, Nebraska on December 1, 1990.

Ib's interest in genealogy was evidenced by her Charter Membership in the South Central Nebraska Genealogy Society, the Devon Family History Society of England, and the Society of Mayflower Descendants. She was a third generation member of P.E.O., O.E.S., D.A.R. and the Nebraska Ladies Legislative League, as a granddaughter of A.H. Byrum, and mother of DiAnna Schimek, both members of the Nebraska Legislature.

Ib was preceded in death by her husband and by her daughter, JoAnna Beth. Surviving are her daughter, DiAnna Ruth (Rebman) Schimek, and son-in-law, Herbert H. Schimek of Lincoln; grandson, Samuel Wolfgang Schimek and wife, Suzanne Grachek of Lawrence, Kansas; and grandson, Saul William Schimek of Lincoln.