



# Pilgrim News

Nebraska Mayflower Society Newsletter

Volume 35, Issue 2

Fall 2015

Greetings! I hope everyone had a great summer. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our annual meeting on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at our new location at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. At our meeting this year we will be conducting our first silent auction to raise money for our Scholarship Fund. Please see more about the auction on page 3. I encourage each of you to donate an item or two for the auction – this will be an important function of our Society moving forward. We will also be watching a short film from Pilgrim Hall Museum.

In September, I was privileged to attend the General Board of Assistants Meeting in Connecticut as Deputy Governor General for our Society. Lea Filson, our Governor General, held the first Training Day at the meeting for the officers. I was elected as DGG for Nebraska, and Kathryn Morrissey was elected as AG for Nebraska. The meetings went very well, and I am very confident in the leadership of our national society. For more about the meeting, please see page 4.

One further note – Judy Moore, our Historian for the past few years, has decided to retire at this time. Our society owes a great deal of thanks to Judy for her dedicated work and for the time she volunteered assisting applicants with identifying the information they needed, helping them fill out the applications, and forwarding the applications on to the national society for approval. This is a very time consuming job, and I am grateful to Judy for giving her time and talent to our society. I have asked Marty Beerman to step in and succeed Judy as Historian, and he has agreed to do so. Marty was previously our Historian for many years, and I know our society will benefit from his skill and experience.

*Gretchen Harvey, Governor*



Society Members enjoying the summer gathering at Henry Doorly Zoo

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### 2015 Directory of Officers

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

**Deputy Governor:** Kathryn Morrissey  
(402) 558-9859 or Kathryn@cwsomaha.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 mar68434@gmail.com

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

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

**Public Relations:** Thomas Masters  
(402) 488-6004 or bec\_corp@inetnebr.com

**Surgeon:** Vacancy

### Board of Assistants

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

DiAnna Schimek (2016)  
(402) 423-0262 or dschimek7@gmail.com

John Reinert (2016)  
(402) 432-9168 or jr6@aol.com

Robert Harvey (2016)  
(402) 679-8232 or rharvey120@gmail.com

Cheryl Clark (2017)  
(308) 325-3849 or cherylclark@q.com

Betty Albanez (2017)  
(402) 292-9532 or bjalbarez@cox.net

Charles Harmon (Past Deputy Governor General)  
(712) 366-6393 or cmfiddle1@cox.net

### General Society & Other Offices

**Deputy Governor General**  
Gretchen Harvey

**Assistant Governor General**  
Kathryn Morrissey

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

**Photographer:** John Keller  
(402) 489-2238 or jfk120@mac.com

NEBRASKA SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS  
SPRING MEETING  
THE MARRIOTT, OMAHA  
April 26, 2015

The meeting was called to order by the Governor, Mrs. Harvey. The invocation was given by Kathryn Morrissey. The members were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by the Deputy Governor General, Mr. Harmon.

The members and guests attending were introduced. The Mayflower Compact was read and a roll call by the passengers was conducted. John Alden had the most attendees.

Upon motion, second and vote, the report of the Treasurer and the Minutes of the last meeting, as published in the Pilgrim News, were approved. The Society has total assets of \$19,207.54, including \$3,547.67 cash on deposit at Union Bank.

Mrs. Morrissey, the Education Chairman, discussed the new project for a lending library of books relating to the Mayflower with emphasis on children's books. Donations are requested and her phone number is (402) 558-9859.

Cheryl Clark is in charge of a silent auction at the next meeting for the scholarship fund. Donations are requested.

Mr. Beerman announced the first Burt and Becky Whedon Scholarship was awarded to Miss Hannah Bassett from Lincoln Lutheran High School. She was introduced and expressed her appreciation for the award. Her essay was distributed to members. She was accompanied by her father, Nathan Bassett, who teaches History and Theology at Lincoln Lutheran.

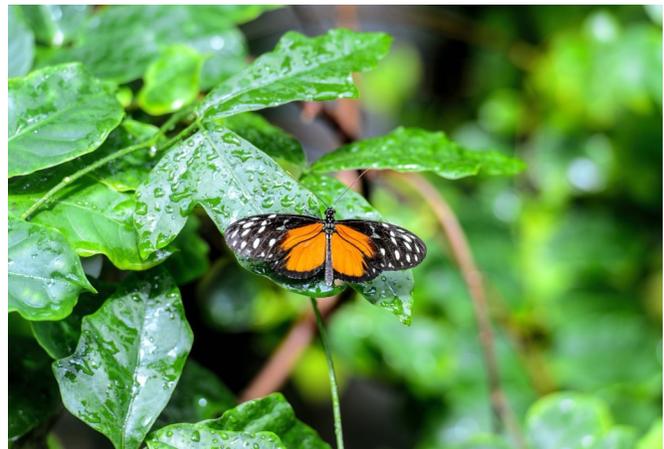
Mr. Laughlin announced that name tags are now available for those who ordered them. John Keller will take a photo of the members after the meeting.

The Governor introduced Mr. Jeff Barnes who spoke and showed slides of the life of Buffalo Bill Cody, who lived in Nebraska for 25 years of his life.

The summer meeting will be held at Henry Doorly Zoo. The fall meeting will be held November 22, 2015 at the Cornhusker Hotel.

The invocation was given and the meeting was adjourned.

By the Secretary, Charles Robinson



Beauty at Henry Doorly Zoo—photo by John Keller

### **Pilgrim News in color is better!**

Receiving your newsletter in color and without the delay of "snail mail," was as simple as dropping us a quick line by email at [ne-braskamayflower@gmail.com](mailto:ne-braskamayflower@gmail.com).

Thanks for helping the Society save money—and for seeing the benefit in this full color edition: vivid colors as presented in nature!

*Annual Meeting— Sunday, November 22th*

## Fall Meeting: Film and Silent Auction for Scholarship



David and Elizabeth Saunders with sisters Olivia (6) and Isabella (10) who are family friends from America. The Saunders from Plymouth, Devon, England operate One Small Candle as Pilgrim ambassadors. See <http://www.onecandleplymouth.com>

### Fall Meeting Entertainment

This year's fall meeting will feature a highly recommended video, "One Small Candle," which comes from Pilgrim Hall Museum. It is a professionally produced film telling the Pilgrim story from its beginnings in England, through the years in Holland, the voyage to America, and the first Thanksgiving in New England. The video includes narration by Nathaniel Philbrook, the author of "Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War."

A number of artifacts from Pilgrim Hall's collections are used in the video, which is a very popular educational video from Pilgrim Hall.

### Silent Auction

We need items for the Silent Auction to be held at this year's annual meeting on November 22, 2015. Proceeds will benefit the Burt & Becky Whedon Memorial Scholarship fund (see page 8 for details on this year's scholarship).

Please contact Cheryl L. Clark ([cherylclark@q.com](mailto:cherylclark@q.com)), PO Box 116, Elwood, NE 68937-0116, or (308) 785-2046, to make your donation. If there is a minimum bid you require, please let Cheryl know before November 1st. Several items already have been donated to this scholarship fundraiser, but we need your help to have more. Possible donation ideas include tickets to sports events or shows, wine baskets, Mayflower-themed items, etc.

Let's make this a great and fun event to raise the money needed for our scholarship fund. Come to the meeting on the 22nd of November prepared to bid!

**Please join us for our Fall Meeting and Thanksgiving Dinner  
on Sunday, November 22 at 1 p.m.**

**The Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, 333 South 13th Street**

**RSVP by November 16, 2015**

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.**

Meal Cost: \$27 per person

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

# September Conference Highlights

At the General Board of Assistants meeting, the General Society submitted its Annual Report. A top priority for the General Society is planning to decrease turn around time for applications by hiring and training new verifiers to assist with the applications. This year, the General Society processed 1,328 new member applications and 361 supplemental applications. We also learned that nationally, baby boomers (born from 1946-1964) and the silent generation (born before 1945) constitute 65% of our new members. New members from Generation X (born from 1965-1984) and the Millennial Generation (born from 1985-2004) constitute 33% of our new membership, and only 2% of new members were born from 2005 to the present. So, we do have work to do in recruiting younger members to our state societies. As for the gender of the new applicants, 61% of the new members are female, and 39% are male.

All of the meetings went very well, and I am was appointed at the meeting to a new committee to help plan and organize the Board of Assistants meetings going forward. I was also asked to help organize volunteers from the state societies to assist with the General Society exhibit booth at the

RootsTech conference in Salt Lake City next February. RootsTech is the largest family history event in the world. Marty Beerman, my husband Bill and I will be attending and helping out with this.

One of the busiest committees we heard about is the 2020 Committee. A major project of this Committee involves members asking Congress to support a 2020 Mayflower Coin. I have written a letter to our representative in support of this, and hopefully, the Coin project will become a reality. Our Governor General is also working to establish new Mayflower societies in England, Australia, and Germany, which will allow our society to grow internationally and welcome new members. If any of you would like to see the General Society's Annual Report, please let me know and I will make it available to you.

### Mark Your Calendars

April 24, 2016, Spring Dinner and Meeting at the Omaha Marriott (10220 Regency Circle) with Governor General Lea Filson as our guest.

July 9, 2016, is the tentative date for the Summer Get Together for our members and their families. Meeting location to be announced in the spring newsletter. Please contact us with ideas or to help with planning!



## Fall 2015 Meeting Reservation Form

Member Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Total of \_\_\_\_\_ dining at \$27 per person

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



When: November 22, 2015, at 1:00 p.m.

Where: The Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln  
333 South 13th Street

Menu: Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner

Please send this form and checks payable to the Nebraska Mayflower Society by **November 16, 2015**, to: Karen Saunders, 1213 North 30th Road, Syracuse, NE 68446

## Welcome New Member

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
Gale Rodney Paxton	88751	Lincoln, NE	John Tilley
Mary Catherine (Abramson) Exstrom	87956	Fremont, NE	William White
John Michael Kuhry	88457	Omaha, NE	William Brewster
Jeffrey Stuart Spencer	88698	Omaha, NE	George Soule

- Judy Moore, Historian

## In Memoriam



### Dr. L. Palmer Johnson

DOB: October 17, 1928

DOD: August 1, 2015

Descendant of William Brewster  
Elected 2006

### Richard Charles Harmon

DOB: September 29, 1959

DOD: October 6, 2015

Descendant of John Howland  
Elected 2003

### Winona (Duncan) Snell

DOB: April 10, 1918

DOD: January 31, 2015

Descendant of Stephen Hopkins,  
Richard Warren, John Alden,  
and Wms Brewster & Mullins  
Elected 1988



## 2016 Officers and Board Assistants

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following Officers and Board Assistants for 2016:

### Officers:

Governor: Gretchen Harvey	Deputy Governor: Kathryn Morrissey
Secretary: Charles L. (Rob) Robinson	Treasurer: Karen Saunders
Historian: Martin Beerman	Elder: Ann Reinert
Counselor: Robert Laughlin	Public Relations: Thomas Masters
Captain: Charles Harmon	Surgeon: Vacant
News Editor: Vicki Westerhaus	Photographer: John Keller

### Board of Assistants

Stephanie Donsig (2018)	Judith Moore (2018)	Dr. Pricilla Grew (2018)
Cheryl Clark (2017)	DiAnna Schimek (2016)	Betty Albanez (2017)
John Reinert (2016)	Robert Harvey (2016)	Charles Harmon (Past Gov.)

### General Society Officers:

Deputy Governor General Gretchen Harvey	Assistant General Kathryn Morrissey
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## 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](mailto:nebraskamayflower@gmail.com)

# Treasurer's Report

Respectfully Submitted By Karen Saunders, Treasurer

## TREASURER'S REPORT--Fall 2015

BALANCE ON HAND--UNION BANK		February 28, 2015	\$ 3,547.67
<b>INCOME:</b>			
National Dues	10 @ \$11.00	\$ 110.00	
State Dues	10 @ 9.00	90.00	
Overpayment of dues	2 @ 5.00	10.00	
Applications	2 @ 100.00	200.00	
	2 @ 25.00	50.00	
	1 @ 75.00	75.00	
Junior Memberships	2 @ 20.00	40.00	
Interest-Checking		1.37	
Spring Dinner	35 @ 25.00	875.00	
Scholarship		1,000.00	
Donation		12.50	
Nametags	12 @ 17.50	210.00	
	1 @ 20.00	20.00	
Reinstatement fee		15.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<u>2,708.87</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<u>\$ 6,256.54</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>			
Spring Dinner		\$ 1,015.11	
Pilgrim News--Spring Printing		277.29	
-Postage		68.16	
Scholarship		500.00	
Nametags		342.40	
Refund Dues Overpayment		5.00	
Historian-Postage		14.42	
-Copies		76.76	
-Books		56.00	
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>			<u>2,355.14</u>
BALANCE ON HAND--UNION BANK		September 30, 2015	\$ 3,901.40
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>			
CD #455909 (due 9-19-17)- .65%		\$6,328.75	
CD #483799 (due 2-06-16)- .70%		1,810.65	
CD #501054 (due 4-28-17)- .55%		7,570.84	
<b>TOTAL OTHER ASSETS</b>			<u>\$15,710.24</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		September 30, 2015	<u>\$19,611.64</u>



Hannah Caroline Bassett

Hannah Bassett is the 2015 recipient of the Nebraska Mayflower Descendants Burt & Becky Whedon Memorial Scholarship. She graduated from Lincoln Lutheran High where she was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council President and Varsity Track Team member. She participated in Cornhusker Girls State and Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Program. She is now attending Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. Hannah's full essay can be read on our website at: <http://www.nebraskamayflower.org/> under the scholarship tab.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karen Saunders



### ATTENTION ALL DUES PAYING MEMBERS

Dues for 2016 are now due, but the good news is that dues are only \$25.00 per year. For all who paid 2015 dues, "Thank You!" For those who have not, please "catch up" for 2015 and also pay now for 2016. If you're not sure, just send us an email at [nebraskamayflower@gmail.com](mailto: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, if you have moved or changed your e-mail or phone, please let us know so we can stay in touch.

All Payments may be sent to:

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

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



## *Junior Member Corner*

### **Help Preserve Your Family Memories By Sponsoring a Junior Member**

Louisa May Alcott said, "Preserve your memories, keep them well, what you forget you can never retell." I love that quote because it symbolizes everything that we are trying to do with our Junior Memberships. We are preserving the history and memories of our Mayflower ancestors and continuing and building on our investment in the Nebraska Mayflower Society.

We are proud to have 58 junior members to date. We are also sending out more applications with the expectation of growing that number. It is exciting to add new junior members and even more exciting when they become members and join our state society after age 18. 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. There is a one-time application fee of \$20. The application process is simple.

Junior membership expires at age 25; however, between the ages of 18 and 25, a junior member can become a member of our state society through the regular application process. You can start the process by requesting an application form by emailing me. Feel free to ask questions. My email address is [sdonsig23@gmail.com](mailto:sdonsig23@gmail.com).

Want to learn more about national junior membership? You can check that out on Facebook at GSMD Jr Mayflower Descendants Social Networking. You will learn what is happening with junior members nationally and find out some pretty amazing facts. For example, John Chapman, or as he is more commonly known, Johnny Appleseed, was born on September 26, 1774 in Leominster, Massachusetts, the second child of Nathaniel and Elizabeth Chapman. Why is this on the Mayflower Facebook Group? Because if you connect to Myles Standish, John Alden, or one of a few others, you are also related to Johnny Appleseed. That's a memory worth preserving.

***Stephanie Donsig, Junior Member Chair***

#### **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](mailto: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

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### College scholarship recognizes academic achievement and service

At the spring meeting on Sunday, April 24, 2016, the Society will award the second **Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants Burt & Becky Whedon Memorial Scholarship** in the amount of \$1,620 to a high school senior planning to attend an accredited 4-year college or university during the 2015-'16 academic year.

An avid genealogist, Becky (Allen) Whedon joined the Nebraska Society in 1982, a descendant of Pilgrim Francis Cooke. She was also a descendant of Pilgrim Richard Warren. Becky served as state 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. He was also a descendant of 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 annual Board of Assistants meetings around the country. Becky died in Omaha on Jan. 16, 2011, age 84. Burt died in Omaha on April 27, 2011, age 88.

Scholarship applicants must be a resident of Nebraska and a U.S. citizen. Applicants 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.

This year's essay topic again focuses on the Mayflower Compact: On Nov. 11, 1620, the Pilgrims composed and signed a document we now know as the Mayflower Compact. Ships visiting Plymouth Colony gave the Pilgrims the opportunity to write letters to their families in England and Holland. Compose an essay, between 750 and 1,000 words, in the form of a letter to family describing the impact the Mayflower Compact had on the early life of Plymouth Colony. The essay must include references to document the facts in the letter. Essays will be evaluated for content, organization, style and grammar. Essays must be submitted electronically according to application instructions and sources must be cited in appropriate bibliographic style.

Complete application materials are available at [www.NebraskaMayflower.org/Scholarship](http://www.NebraskaMayflower.org/Scholarship). Applications must be submitted by March 31, 2016. Applications will be reviewed and a recipient selected by Society Governor Gretchen Harvey, Kathryn Morrissey, a member of the Board of Assistants who coordinates our education outreach to schools, and Historian Marty Beerman. If you would like to support the Nebraska Society Scholarship Fund, mail your check to Karen Saunders, Treasurer, 1213 North 30<sup>th</sup> Road, Syracuse, NE 68446-7710.