

A Letter from the Governor

Greetings! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer, and I am looking forward to seeing you at our annual meeting on November 20 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. At our meeting, we will be conducting our second annual silent auction to raise money for our Scholarship Fund. You will find more information about the scholarship on page 7 and about the auction on page 3. Our auction was such a success last year, and we hope to raise even more money this year for this important project. Thanks to Cheryl Clark for all of her help in getting this project organized. Please start thinking about a fun donation you can make for the auction. I am also pleased to announce that Cleveland Evans, who writes wonderful columns in the Omaha World-Herald about the history of names, will be our guest and will be giving a presentation on names of the Mayflower passengers. You will find information about Mr. Evans on page 3.

In September, I am proud to report that we had three members of our society travel to Indianapolis to attend the General Board of Assistants meeting. Kathryn Morrissey attended as Assistant Governor for Nebraska, and I attended as Deputy Governor General. Marty Beerman also attended, and in addition to the Board of Assistants meeting, Marty attended a day of meetings for the state historians. Kathryn received a well deserved certificate of recognition and a pin from the Governor General for her Education Outreach work for visiting schools in Omaha dressed in Pilgrim attire to educate children about our Mayflower heritage (see page 3). Thanks to both Kathryn and Marty for representing our state at the national level. You will find more information about the meeting on page 6.

I also wanted to thank Stephanie Donsig, our new newsletter editor. Our society owes her a big thank you. I asked Stephanie to become our newsletter editor, and she agreed to help us out. We are all looking forward to working with her.

Gretchen Harvey, Governor

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Kathryn Morrissey, Marty Beerman, and Gretchen Harvey at the General Board of Assistants meeting in Indianapolis in September

Spring 2016 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the Governor, Gretchen Harvey. The Invocation was given by Elder Ann Reinert. The members were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Captain Charles Harmon.

Members and guests were introduced. Bob Harvey read the Mayflower Compact. Marty Beerman conducted the Roll Call of descendants by passenger. John Howland had the most descendants attending.

Upon motion, second and vote, the Treasurer's Report and the Minutes of the last meeting, as printed in the Pilgrim News, were approved.

The Burt and Becky Whedon Scholarship in the amount of \$1,620 was awarded to Miss Natalie Bielenberg of Omaha Millard South High School.

The Governor General, Lea Filson, was introduced by Governor Harvey and she spoke to the membership about current happenings at the General Society. She presented the Governor General's Meritorious Service Award to Governor Gretchen Harvey for her service to the General Society.

She brought with her the Gavel made from wood of Mayflower II to be used by the Governor during the meeting, and a photo was taken of the Governor General and Governor with the gavel. She also described her medals, including the Governor General's medallion, containing leaves on which are engraved the names of members of the past Governor Generals. She shared slides of the national headquarters house and garden. She discussed the plans for renovation of the house and its future use, and invited donations. The new "1620 Club" is for members who have donated \$1,620 to the national and who will be invited to an annual meeting. The society has published a new book, "The Cry of a Stone" published by Pilgrim Cushman before 1620. The Society now has a DNA project. The Governor presented the Governor General with a certificate appointing her as an Admiral in the Nebraska Navy.

Australia and the United Kingdom are working on proposed Charters for local Society chapters.

The Summer get together will be a picnic July 9 and the Annual meeting will be Nov 20 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln.

The benediction was given by Ann Reinert.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Charles Robinson, Secretary

2016 Directory of Officers

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

Deputy Governor | Kathryn Morrissey
(402) 558-9895 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 | 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

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

Surgeon | *Vacant*

Board of Assistants

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 cherlyclark@q.com

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

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

Dr. Priscilla Grew (2018)
(402) 472-3779 or pgrew1@unl.edu

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

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

Are you Ready to be a Pilgrim Ambassador?

Have you ever considered becoming a "Pilgrim Ambassador?" There are many ways you can educate others about our ancestors. And the autumn of each year offers a simple way to get started. An easy first-step is contacting your local library. Many have 'story time' for youngsters and would welcome a volunteer reader. Most libraries have several books on the Pilgrims and the First Thanksgiving. We also have some books in our Nebraska Society library that we can loan to you. Just remember to rehearse reading out loud and pausing to show the pictures.

Here are some tips that may help make your first reading a success. Generally, the younger the audience, the more helpful it is to bring aids. I've found that costumes command the audience's attention. . . . (Continued on page 7)

General Society & Other Offices

Deputy Governor General | Gretchen Harvey

Assistant Governor General | Kathryn Morrissey

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

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

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

Fall Meeting – Sunday, November 20, 2016

Cleveland Evans Presentation & Silent Auction

Please join us for our fall meeting and Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 20, 2016, at 1:00 PM at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, located at 333 South 13th Street.

Our speaker at our fall meeting is Cleveland Evans, who writes columns about the history of names for the Omaha World-Herald. Mr. Evans will be giving a presentation about the names of the Mayflower passengers. We are so honored to have him with us and are looking forward to meeting him in November. There will also be a silent auction to benefit the Whedon Scholarship.

Please RSVP by **Saturday, November 12**, so we can provide our final count to the Cornhusker. Send your reservation form (insert in this newsletter) and checks payable to the Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants to **Karen Saunders, 1213 North 30th Road, Syracuse, NE 68446**. The cost for the dinner is \$27.00 per person.

The Board of Assistants will meet at 12:00 noon before the Dinner meeting. As a member of our Society, you are always welcome to attend our Board of Assistants meeting.

Silent Auction Items Needed

We need items for our second annual Silent Auction. Proceeds will benefit the Burt & Becky Whedon Memorial Scholarship fund (see page 7 for details on this year's scholarship). Please notify Cheryl L. Clark (cherylclark@q.com, PO Box 116, Elwood, NE 68937-0116, or (308) 785-2046), with the item/items you would like to donate and any minimum bid you have for the item by **November 7**. Possible donation ideas include tickets to sports events or shows, gift cards to movies or restaurants, or 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 November 20 prepared to bid and purchase so we can raise money for this important project for our Society!



Cleveland Evans, Our Fall Meeting Speaker



Kathryn Morrissey receiving her Certificate of Recognition from Governor General Lea Filson for her Education Outreach program

2016 Annual Meeting Reservation Form

Member Name(s): _____

Guests: _____

Adult(s): _____ @ \$27.00/meal Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please send this form and checks payable to the **Nebraska Mayflower Society** by Nov. 12 to Karen Saunders, 1213 North 30th Road, Syracuse, NE 68446.

When: Sunday, Nov. 20 at 1 p.m.

Where: Cornhusker Hotel

333 S 13th St,

Lincoln

Menu: Traditional Thanksgiving

Dinner

J.K. Rowling Hitches a Ride on the Mayflower!



Even if you are not a fan of the magical stories created by J.K. Rowling, just about everyone in the English-speaking world has heard about her books and the movies based on them. Rowling's stories of an orphaned boy-wizard, Harry Potter, are credited with encouraging children to read and spawned a series of wildly-popular movies that appear regularly on cable television.

What's the connection to us? In June 2016, Rowling previewed a new narrative on the Pottermore website. In it, Isolt Sayre, a promising young witch from County Kerry, Ireland, disguises herself as a boy named Elias Story and rides to the New World onboard the Mayflower. Once in America, Isolt/Elias slips away into the forest so the Mayflower passengers are said to assume Isolt/Elias died during the terrible first winter.

However, the connections to our ancestors continue beyond the Mayflower. A magical creature teaches Isolt how to survive in America in much the same way Squanto assisted our ancestors. In fact, the creature is a

Pukwudgie – which is an anthropomorphic being adapted from the folklore of the Wampanoag Indian tribe. (The Wampanoag 's were the first Native Americans the Pilgrims encountered.)

Isolt goes on to establish a new North American School of Witchcraft and Wizardry – like Hogwarts. The good news is there is a huge following (adults as well as children) of all things J.K. Rowling. So, by including the Mayflower and Plymouth Colony in her story, it's likely additional attention will shine on our pilgrim ancestors. In short, we're cool!

The not-so-good news is that Rowling's story seems to perpetuate some old misconceptions. For example, one of the reasons Isolt feels she must escape from Plymouth is that she learned on the voyage how the "PURITAN" passengers are intolerant of magic. Of course, we all know that whether they were separatists or adventurers, our ancestors were NOT Puritans. Additionally, some bloggers also have expressed disappointment, or even anger, that the Native American population is not appropriately represented in the story.

All this considered, I think Ms. Rowling has done us a favor by providing a new way to engage children and adults in a discussion about our Pilgrim heritage. Maybe at Thanksgiving, you can ask your young relatives (junior members?) if they know what the Mayflower and Harry Potter have in common!

Kathryn Morrissey

Save these dates!

Spring 2017 Meeting

Our Spring 2017 meeting will be Sunday April 23 at the Embassy Suites in the Old Market in Omaha.

Summer 2017 Meeting

Our Summer 2017 meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 8. The event is to be determined.



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

Welcome New Members!

Name	Number	Residence	Ancestor
William Nathaniel Martin Beerman	89644-1096	Lincoln	Richard Warren
Kay Ellen (Watson) Janulewicz	89970-1097	St. Paul	Edward Fuller
Stephen Atherton DeVol Krogh Spencer	90030-1098	Omaha	George Soule
Mary Beth Vedder	90094-1099	Bellevue	Samuel Fuller
Daniel James Doty	90093-1100	Omaha	Edward Doty
Christine Marie (Rose) Distefano	90182-1101	Omaha	William Bradford
Barbara Leanne (Lute) Endorf	90208-1102	Lincoln	Edward Fuller
Rosalie Jean (Frazell) Lippincott	90351-1103	Lincoln	Edward Fuller
Jeffrey Allen Harford	90376-1104	Lincoln	John Alden
Cynthia Paulette (Lichtenberg) Rademacher	90505-1106	Kearney	William Brewster
Patrica Ann (DeLott) Lucke	90504-1105	Omaha	William Brewster

In Memoriam

Louise Ada (Baker) Garrett

age 90

A descendant of John Howland

Joined 1953

Marilyn Maxine (Willer) Larsen

Former Member

age 81

A descendant of John Billington

Member from 2002 to 2013

Larry Lee Bosley

age 84

A descendent of Edward Fuller

Joined 2005

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

2017 Officers & Board Assistants

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following Officers and Board Assistants for the year 2017:

OFFICERS

Governor | Gretchen Harvey

Deputy Governor | Kathryn Morrissey

Secretary | Charles L. (Rob) Robinson

Treasurer | Karen Saunders

Historian | Marty Beerman

Elder | Ann Reinert

Counselor | Robert Laughlin

Public Relations | Thomas Masters

Captain | Charles Harmon

Surgeon | *Vacant*

BOARD OF ASSISTANTS

Cheryl Clark (2017)

Stephanie Donsig (2018)

Dr. Priscilla Grew (2018)

Judith Moore (2018)

DiAnna Schimek (2019)

John Reinert (2019)

Bonnie Kolowski (2019)

Charles Harmon (Past Governor)

GENERAL SOCIETY & OTHER OFFICERS

Deputy Governor General

Gretchen Harvey

Assistant General

Kathryn Morrissey

News Editor | Stephanie Donsig

Photographer | John Keller

Webmaster | Marty Beerman

Keeping members engaged at Society meetings

At our fall meeting last November, the Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants held its first silent auction to raise money for our scholarship fund. Our members donated many fun Mayflower themed items, including a Mayflower puzzle and a Mayflower ship in a bottle. Other items donated included a photography session, College World Series tickets, and movie and restaurant gift cards. The auction was a huge success, and we plan on making this a yearly event. It is a great way to raise money for our scholarship fund and an engaging fellowship activity for our members.

(This article by Gretchen Harvey was featured in the Summer 2016 *Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*.)

Treasurer's Report Karen Saunders, Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT--FALL 2016

BALANCE ON HAND--UNION BANK	February 28, 2016		\$ 9,700.71
<u>INCOME:</u>			
National Dues	11 @ \$15.00	\$	165.00
State Dues	11 @ 10.00		110.00
Applications	9 @ 25.00		225.00
Interest--Checking			1.17
Scholarship Donations			550.00
Spring Dinners	25 @ 28.00		1,204.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$	2,255.17
	TOTAL		\$ 11,955.88
<u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>			
National Dues	297 @ \$15.00	\$	4,455.00
Certificates	20 @ 1.50		30.00
	20 @ 2.00		40.00
Application			75.00
Historian Books			54.00
Scholarship			1,620.00
Spring Dinner--Dinners	1,494.56		
--AV Equipt.	317.20		
--Insurance	104.24		1,915.98
Spring Newsletter			201.57
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$	8,391.55
BALANCE ON HAND--UNION BANK	SEPTEMBER 30, 2016		\$ 3,564.04
<u>OTHER ASSETS</u>			
CD #455909 (due 9-19-17)--	.65%	\$	6,370.11
CD #483799 (due 2-06-19)--	.65%		1,822.87
CD #501054 (due 4-28-17)--	.55%		7,612.68
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS			\$15,805.66
TOTAL ASSETS	September 30, 2016		\$19,369.70

September GSMD Conference Highlights by Gretchen Harvey

At this year's meeting, much of the emphasis was on the plans for the 2020 meeting in Plymouth. Nationally, there are ongoing plans for the minting of a Mayflower 2020 Commemorative Coin, and members are lobbying Senators and Representatives to support the effort. Both Senator Deb Fischer and Congressman Brad Ashford from Nebraska have agreed to sign on to this project. We learned that the City of Plymouth is also lobbying for its own commemorative coin, so we will have more on this later.

We discussed the new proposed DNA policy which is being considered for use by GSMD in the application process. We learned that GSMD is only considering accepting some Y DNA studies at this time, due to the complexity of the overall DNA process. This is an exciting new chapter for our society. If anyone wants further information about this, just let me know and I can provide a handout we received at the meeting.

Other news includes the formation of a new Society of Mayflower

Descendants in Europe. One of the charter members of this society, who lives in England, is also a member of our Nebraska Society. I also have some information about GSMD Historic Sites Tour in 2017 (Sept 19 - Oct 2). It starts in London and includes trips to Southampton, Plymouth, Wrexham, Doncaster, Peterborough, Ipswich, and Leiden. Please let me know if you would like more information about this. It is an exciting adventure to trace the footsteps of our ancestors!

Better than a gift card?

By now we have all received the Summer 2016 issue of The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine. I was struck by the article “History Teacher Appreciation in Texas.” It recounts the story of Brooklin Blair, a Junior member in the GSMD. Brooklin was so proud of her Mayflower lineage that she brought her genealogy and Mayflower application to school to show her high school history teacher, Ann Correll. The following is an excerpt from Ann Correll’s letter to Brooklin:

“Thank you so much for bringing your Society of Mayflower Descendants documentation for me to see. What a wonderful gift from your grandfather! At 17 years old, you might have preferred a gift card from Best Buy or Amazon, but when you’re 40 years old, you’ll value this documentation far above anything Amazon had to offer at any price. . . . Again I’m glad you brought this in! And I’m incredibly flattered that you thought that I might enjoy seeing it. I certainly did.”

What an amazing response by the teacher! I am sure Brooklin’s pride only increased after her teacher’s response. Brooklin’s grandfather has given her an amazing gift because this part of her family history will never be lost. Lillian Trujilla noted that “when you are young, your grandparents try to tell you their history, and you don’t care because it doesn’t interest you at the time. Later on, you wish you had written what they said down.” I think that we have all realized the truth of that statement. 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. 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 member of our state society through the regular application process. You can start the process by requesting an application form by sending me (Stephanie Donsig) an email. Feel free to ask me questions. My email address is sdonsig23@gmail.com.

Want to learn more about national junior membership? You can check it out on Facebook at GSMD Jr Mayflower Descendants Social Networking. You will learn what is happening with junior members nationally and learn some amazing facts. And for our Nebraska society, we plan our summer event with junior members in mind. It will be fun for members of all ages!

Stephanie Donsig, Junior Membership Chair

Photos from 2016 Spring Nebraska Society Meeting (Courtesy of John Keller)



Governor General Lea Filson receives her Admiralship



Governor General Filson speaks at the Spring meeting



Members gather for the meeting



Natalie Bielenberg receives the 2016 Whedon Scholarship

2016 Burt & Becky Whedon Scholarship Recipient



Natalie Teresa Bielenberg is the 2016 recipient of the Burt and Becky Whedon Memorial Scholarship.

Natalie is a senior at Millard South High School in Omaha where she has been involved in marching and concert band, orchestra and volleyball. She received a Silver Medal on National Spanish exams in 2013 and 215 and is an AP Scholar. Hannah is also a volunteer Sunday School Teacher.

In her letter of recommendation, Natalie's Spanish teacher, Juventina C. Slotter, wrote "Natalie has been one of the most outstanding students I have ever had the pleasure of knowing in my 26 years of teaching. Natalie is a young person with outstanding character and leadership qualities."

Applicants wrote on The Mayflower Compact in the form of a letter to family in England describing the impact the compact had on the early life of Plymouth Colony.

The Winning Essay, by Natalie Bielenberg

Plimoth, Massachusetts
April 3 Anno 1621

Dearest Brother,

What a trying time this journey has been! It took more than two months—indeed, sixty six days!—to arrive. Not only that, but we didn't even make it to our original destination in Virginia. Rather, the men found it prudent to sail to Plimoth instead, due to very severe storms and a close encounter with shipwreck. However, before I go on about that, I must tell you the exciting news: my baby was born aboard the Mayflower, safe and healthy. Stephen and I were blessed with a son. His name is Oceanus, for he was born on the ocean. Giving birth to Damaris may have been difficult, but I never could have imagined the challenge of giving birth on a ship with so much sea sickness, so many people, and so much movement from the boat around.

We had quite a scare with some of the people on board. I do not know all of the details, however it seems that here in Plimoth we are outside the bounds of the governmental authority—the Virginia Company patent—agreed upon in England. The pilgrim leader, Mr. William Bradford, was frightened by talk among some of the men on board of their lack of obligation to follow the pilgrim rules. This probably reminded them of the New World's earlier settlers. Their settlement failed because of a lack of government. I, too, was frightened of what those people might do without rules to keep them under control. It is a good thing that our men are so smart. They decided to have the man of each family get together to form a written agreement. Together they composed a compact that bound anyone who signed to comply with any form of government that might be established after we had landed. Before any adult male could go ashore, he was required to sign this agreement.

Once the Mayflower Compact had been signed by all of the men, they began building our village. We lived on the ship for some months after anchoring off the shore of Plimoth. During the days, the men would row ashore to build the houses; after sunset they would return,

exhausted and freezing cold. What a wretched time that was! Everyone, but especially the men, was cold and wet all of the time. There simply was no escaping it. Because of this, people started to get very unwell, with colds, coughs, fevers, and just general sickness. About half of the people who came to the New World on the Mayflower died this past winter, and I suppose I am exceptionally lucky to have survived. It took until just a couple of weeks ago for enough houses to be built so that everyone could live on land. How strange it is to no longer constantly feel the rocking of the ship beneath my feet! Also strange are the random things we keep finding in the area around our village. It would seem that some group of people lived here in Plimoth before us, but evidently they left in a great hurry, for they left many of their strange possessions behind. In just two days the Mayflower, carrying this letter, will leave in order to return to England.

Our Mayflower Compact is only temporary, of course, but it is legally binding, which is very reassuring to me. I do believe that it has created a peace here which otherwise might not have existed. At any rate, it will serve us well until the Company can receive formal permission from the Council of New England. Although I did not want to come here in the first place, I am starting to have more hope for my family's life here. My husband has explained to me that here in Plimoth he will own land, whereas back in England he did not. He has been here to the New World before and he is convinced that we will be able to have a better life here. My hope is that, because of the land we'll own and thanks to this Mayflower Compact, Oceanus and the rest of my and Stephen's children—both those born already and those yet unborn—will be able to grow up safely here in the New World and lead good, God-fearing lives.

When you receive this letter, know that I am thinking of you and that I miss you. Please send my love and by very best regards to all of our friends and family back in England. Do write back to me soon!
Sincerely and lovingly yours,
Your sister, Elizabeth Hopkins

2017 Burt and Becky Whedon Memorial Scholarship

At the Nebraska Society's Spring Meeting on Sunday, April 24, 2017, the Society will award the third 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 2016-17 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 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, grammar and creativity. Sources must be cited in appropriate bibliographic style.

Applications must be submitted via U.S. mail postmarked by March 31, 2017 to:

Martin W. Beerman, Historian, Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants, 8704 Douglas St., Omaha, NE 68114-4035.

Pilgrim Ambassador (continued from page 2)

If the full-blown pilgrim regalia is too much of an investment, or just not your style, consider bringing a "pilgrim hat" or "pilgrim apron." If you don't want to wear it, maybe the youngsters in the audience would like to take turns putting it on before or after story time. Consider bringing other "props." Dried herbs in small bags let children smell how the Pilgrims seasoned their food at the first Thanksgiving. Old-fashioned pots and metal plates can be bought for pennies at second-hand stores and can be passed around for little fingers to touch. Bring an unlit candle to explain there was no electricity. Or grab a wooden spoon from your kitchen to make the point that many families made their own implements and that forks were virtually unknown! Check www.plimoth.org for some ready-to-order options, too.

Young audiences have a limited attention span. That's good news! Look for books with many illustrations. If the books you select have too many words to keep your audience engaged, tell a shorter story on your own – using the book as a guide. Bring two or three books if you are invited to read. Moving quickly from one story to the next will keep the little ones interested. And, remember to tell them there were children on the Mayflower!

Finally, lower your expectations. Don't assume you will have everyone's eyes trained on you. Instead, go with the goal of entertaining – while sneaking in a bit of education. Get the kids (and their parents) thinking about Thanksgiving beyond the turkey and stuffing. The "meat" of this important holiday is the simple story of faith, teamwork, bravery, perseverance and gratitude. If you need help or wish to check out our books, please feel free to contact me at kathryn@cwsomaha.com

Kathryn Morrissey, Deputy Governor

Why not give a Junior Membership as a Gift?

The one-time fee for junior membership is only \$20.00 and the application process is easy. Just send an email to sdonsig23@gmail.com and we can provide you with all the information you need to complete the application process.



Pilgrim News

8704 Douglas St
Omaha, NE 68114-4035

2016 Summer Meeting

On July 9, 2016, members of our group visited the Durham Western Heritage Museum in Omaha, and enjoyed lunch afterwards at the Burlington League. We were so thrilled to have some of our new members and their family members attend this event, including Jeff Harford and Kay Janulewicz. We had a lot of fun. Go to our website in the spring to find out about our 2017 summer event.

