

## Our Fall Meeting is Sunday, November 24

Please join us for our annual meeting and Thanksgiving Dinner **on Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019**, at 1 p.m. at Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln, 94101 East O Street. We're back at Hillcrest for its easy access, convenient free parking (drop-off lane by main entrance) and competitive meal pricing. The menu is a traditional Thanksgiving feast of turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, vegetable, rolls and of course pumpkin pie. A vegetarian option is also available.

### Fall Meeting RSVP Information

Please RSVP by **Friday, Nov. 15** so we can provide our final count to Hillcrest. 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 at [www.NebraskaMayflower.org/dues](http://www.NebraskaMayflower.org/dues) using PayPal or a credit card. The cost for the dinner is \$30 per person.

To reach Hillcrest Country Club: from I-80, take exit 409 for US-6 toward Waverly/East Lincoln, then 84th Street north and then a left onto O Street. Hillcrest's drive is on the right.

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

### Mayflower Trivia Bingo

Back by popular demand! Again this year we will play Mayflower Trivia Bingo, so brush up on your Mayflower knowledge and come ready to impress your cousins.

### Search Your Home for Treasures

Items are needed for our fifth annual Silent Auction. Search your home for treasures – home décor, tickets to sports events or shows, gift cards to movies or restaurants, or Mayflower-themed items, etc., to donate to the auction.

Proceeds benefit the Burt & Becky Whedon Memorial Scholarship fund (see page 9 for this year's scholarship winner's essay). Reach out to Cheryl L. Clark ([cherylclark@q.com](mailto:cherylclark@q.com), PO Box 116, Elwood, NE 68937-0116, or (308) 785-2046), by Nov. 15 with your item's description and minimum bid. This is a fun way to raise money needed for our scholarship fund. Then come to the fall meeting ready to bid early and often!

As the photo on the right shows, there was great interest in last year's Silent Auction.

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## Spring 2019 BOA Minutes

### Those in attendance:

Martin Beerman; Kathryn Morrissey; Bonnie Kolowski; Robert Harvey; Ann Reinert; Robert Laughlin; Stephanie Donsig; Thomas Masters; Cheryl Clark; Judith Moore; John Reinert; Gretchen Harvey.

The meeting was called to order by Governor Martin Beerman

**INTRODUCTIONS** Governor General George Garmany was welcomed.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT – Bonnie Kolowski

Minutes from November 18, 2018 Meeting in Omaha, NE were approved.

### TREASURER'S REPORT – Bob Harvey

The financial report was presented. We have a balance of \$23,702.52. It was moved and seconded to accept the financial report. The motion carried.

### JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP - Stephanie Donsig

There were no new members as of November. We presently have 83 Junior Members.

### EDUCATION REPORT – Kathryn Morrissey

The name of the "Mayflower" comes from a flower, Trailing Arbutus, known as the Mayflower, which is white or pink. It is the Massachusetts State Flower.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Marty Beerman

We have 295 members. At the start of the year we had 296. There have been 5 deaths, 2 former members were reinstated and 2 new members. We dropped 21 people for non-payment of dues in 2017 and 2018.

### SCHOLARSHIP REPORT – Gretchen Harvey

There were 21 applications for the scholarship. This year's scholarship was awarded to Madigan Brodsky, a senior at Westside High School. Madigan will be attending Stanford University in the fall.

### PUBLICITY REPORT – Tom Masters

We have packets of information about the Mayflower passengers for 7 & 8th grade students. This information could be put on the website.

### GOVERNOR'S UPDATE

The Summer Meeting is planned for Saturday, July 13, 2019. There are several ideas for the summer meeting--the SAC Museum; the Mormon Visitors Center; Durham Museum Gold Coast Tours.

### NEW BUSINESS

The 990 forms for 2018 were filed with the IRS on March 26, 2019.

### Adjournment

Governor Martin Beerman adjourned the meeting.

## 2019 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 | John Keller

(402) 450-3781 or jfk120@me.com

### 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 | Audrey Paulman, M.D.

(402) 551-22184 or apaulman@me.com

## Board of Assistants

### Cheryl Clark (2020)

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

### Stephanie Donsig (2021)

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

### John Keller (2021)

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

### Judith Moore (2021)

(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

## Governor's Greetings

Dear Cousins,

Excitement is building for the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower Landing next year. Many activities are planned in Plymouth throughout the year. I hope you can participate and celebrate our Pilgrim ancestors.

Here at home, please join us for our Annual Meeting and Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 24 at Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln. Come enjoy a great lunch, time with your Mayflower Cousins, plus you can bid on an auction item or two and play Mayflower Bingo. Auction proceeds fund our Nebraska Society's Burt & Becky Whedon Memorial Scholarship.

Our Scholarship Committee is one way to be involved. But we have other opportunities, too. If you would like to be more involved in our Society, please let me know. I am confident we can match your interests with the current needs of the Society. Please reach out to me at 402-709-3786 or mwbeerman@cox.net. Let me know how you would like to be involved.

Thanks to all our members who serve as an officer, a member of the Board of Assistants or a project leader. Thank you for everything you do for our Society. Special thanks to our Nominating Committee, consisting of Deputy Governor Gretchen Harvey and Assistant General Kathryn Morrissey. I want to thank DiAnna Schimek for many years of service as a member of the Board of Assistants and welcome Fran Ruh, our newest member. The full slate of Officers and Board of Assistants members is on page 6.

Fall is in the air and Thanksgiving is fast approaching. I look forward to seeing many of you in Lincoln for our Thanksgiving celebration.

Marty Beerman  
Governor & Historian

## SAVE THESE DATES!

### Spring 2020 Meeting

Our Spring 2020 meeting and dinner will be on Sunday April 28th at Embassy Suites – Lavista, which is the same location as last year.

### Summer 2020 Meeting

Our Summer 2020 meeting will be at on Saturday, July 11. More details will be announced on the website soon.

## Membership Report

We began 2019 with 296 members. With 5 reported deaths, the addition of 2 former members who reinstated, and 9 new members joining, our current membership total is now 302.

## 2019 Fall Meeting Reservation Form

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Adult(s): \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00/meal      Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Meals: Traditional Thanksgiving \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Entree \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form and checks payable to the **Nebraska Mayflower Society** by Nov. 15 to Bonnie Kolowski, 4815 S. 158<sup>th</sup> Circle, Omaha, NE, 68135.

When: Sunday, Nov. 24 at 1 p.m.

Where: Hillcrest Country Club  
9410 East O St,  
Lincoln

Menu: Traditional Thanksgiving  
Dinner or Vegetarian Entree



## First Parish Meeting House & Church: Welcome Home, Pilgrim!



The arched entryway to the Meeting House showing the plaques on either side.

Last month, at the General Society's Board of Assistants meeting, former Governor General Lea Filson reported on the work underway at OUR Meeting House. With contributions from the membership and a \$2.68 million donation from the town of Plymouth, the site is buzzing with activity! The exterior soon will be free of leaks. Slate roof tiles are being replaced, exterior stone is being cleaned and new mortar is being added. By Christmas, the breathtaking Robinson stained glass windows should be back in place. Threading carefully among the ladders and workers, tours continue -- showing the curious how the site of the original "multi-purpose building" of the Saints and Strangers is being made ready for its expanded educational mission of the 21st century.

As the proud new owners of the Meeting House, you might be asking yourself, why does this building look like this? Was it the style back in 1899? The makers of this house of worship in the New World took their inspiration from the Old World.

Designed in the Romanesque Revival style, the Meeting House was

modeled after the church where William Bradford was baptized -- St. Helena's in Austerfield, England. It features an 88' tall Norman tower flanked by faux buttresses. The builders selected this style because it resembled the churches that would be familiar to those who sailed on the Mayflower. Embedded in the floor, and looking right at home, is a stone threshold from just such an old church -- the one in Delfshaven where the Pilgrims prayed before departing for England.

The Meeting House features a graceful arched entry (pictured above), adorned with angels and plants. These are carved in Ohio sandstone. Solid oak pocket doors stand sentinel and are decorated with hand-forged and hammered-iron. Above the doors, enshrined in stained glass, are crosses and grapevines symbolizing the sacred. Before setting foot inside, it's important to note the messages on either side of the front doors. On the left is a plaque showing an image of the Mayflower, the Bible, and the lamp of knowledge.

To the right, is the following proclamation:

*"The Church of Scrooby, Leyden, and the Mayflower gathered on this hillside in 1620 has ever since preserved unbroken records and maintained a continuous ministry its first covenant being still the basis of its fellowship. In reverent memory of its pilgrim founders this fifth meeting house was erected A.D. MDCCCXCVII."*

Inside the vestibule, stone tables continue telling the pilgrim story showing the congregations that sprang from this mother church. The first three elders -- William Brewster, Thomas Cushman and Thomas Faunce--are listed here as well. Once inside this lobby space, beautiful Tennessee pink marble (like that found in the U.S. Capitol) is the primary design element. Its lovely sheen and color are repeated in the staircases and the narthex wainscoting. The workmanship and the materials have stood the test of time. Once inside, the church seems to say, 'Welcome home, pilgrim.'

A word of thanks and attribution to "First Parish Meetinghouse" by Donna Petrangelo, from which much information was used.

Kathryn Morrissey

### Support the Meeting House!

*The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) has taken on the challenge of raising funds to refurbish the historic First Parish Meeting House also known as The National Memorial Pilgrim Church. The GSMD is asking each state society -- including ours-- to participate in fundraising over the three years. Because many of us don't know the story behind this building, a series of articles gives you that information and, we hope, inspires you to consider donating.*

***You can support this effort by purchasing a Nebraska Society pin and/or making a cash donation to the project headed by GSMD Past Governor General Lea Filson. For details for either--please advise Kathryn Morrissey so your donation may be counted toward the Nebraska Society's goal.***

## General Society's BOA Meeting

During the first week in September, the General Society held its Board of Assistants meeting in Denver, Colorado. I attended as Deputy Governor General, Kathryn Morrissey attended as Assistant General, and Marty Beerman attended as our Historian. This year, we had a record number of attendees, with 217 attending. My husband Bill and I traveled to Colorado, and Kathryn's husband, Dan, also made the trip. Our Governor General, George Garmany, did a great job of leading the Board of Assistants meeting.

Good news for our Society! Marge Hurtuk, our Historian General, reported that applications to our Society have increased by 24.4%, about 3,580 applications, largely expected because of the upcoming 2020 celebrations. Because of the increased applications; however, there is a growing cost for the support staff to process the applications, and it is likely that dues will need to be increased for the National Society to offset the application and approval process. Marty attended the Treasurer's meeting, where the member societies discussed how the higher national dues will impact the individual societies. One issue that was raised was the impact on the individual societies when they will be required to pay higher costs for national dues for the individual life memberships. The need to raise costs for membership was an important topic at the Board of Assistants meeting.

Lea Filson discussed the transfer of the deed for the National Pilgrim Memorial Meeting House in Plymouth to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. We are now the proud owners of this wonderful historical site! Work is being done to refurbish the building, and it is expected that this will be a great benefit to our Society as we move forward.

One of the most discussed topics was the upcoming 2020 events which will begin in September, 2020. You will find the complete list of events at the GSMD website and look for the Mayflower float in the Rose Bowl Parade!

Gretchen Harvey

## Our Governor & Historian recognized by GSMD



## In Memoriam

### Everett Sterling Stevens

Deceased 16 March 2019

A descendant of John Howland

Joined 1957

### John Michael Kuhry Sr.

Deceased 4 July 2019

A descendant of William Brewster

Joined 2015

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](mailto:mwbeerman@cox.net)

Our Nebraska Society's Governor & Historian, Marty Beerman, was recognized at the General Society's General Board of Assistants meeting in Denver in September with a Certificate of Commendation and Appreciation "for recognition of all he has done as the most active member of the Society."

"As Historian, he was responsible for a record number of new applications being processed, launching the website and maintaining the membership database. His dedication has been truly outstanding."

As you can see in the photo on the left, the award was presented by George P. Garmany Jr., Governor General, Gretchen Harvey, Deputy Governor General, and Virginia A. Mucciaccio, Awards Committee Chair.



## 2020 Officers & Board Of Assistants Nominees

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following Officers and Board of Assistants for the year 2020:

### OFFICERS

<b>Governor</b>   Marty Beerman	<b>Public Relations</b>   Thomas Masters
<b>Deputy Governor</b>   Kathryn Morrissey	<b>Captain</b>   John Keller
<b>Secretary</b>   Bonnie Kolowski	<b>Surgeon</b>   Audrey Paulman, M.D.
<b>Treasurer</b>   Robert Harvey	
<b>Historian</b>   Marty Beerman	
<b>Elder</b>   Ann Reinert	
<b>Counselor</b>   Robert Laughlin	

### BOARD OF ASSISTANTS

Cheryl Clark (2020)	John Reinert (2022)
Stephanie Donsig (2021)	Fran Ruh(2022)
John Keller (2021)	Gretchen Harvey (Past Governor)
Judith Moore (2021)	

### GENERAL SOCIETY & OTHER OFFICERS

<b>Deputy Governor General</b> Gretchen Harvey	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>   Stephanie Donsig
<b>Assistant General</b> Kathryn Morrissey	<b>Photographer</b>   John Keller
	<b>Webmaster</b>   Marty Beerman



## Show Your Pilgrim Pride

Can you think of a better way to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our ancestor's arrival in America than refurbishing the church on the site of their original meeting house in Plymouth? We can't either! That's why the General Society of Mayflower Descendants is asking for your donations for this historic legacy project.

Gifts to the restoration of the Meeting House will go into a Charitable Trust created by the GSMD. Individual donations will be listed online and will count toward our Nebraska Society goal.

The GSMD gratefully will accept cash donations or credit cards. *(Please add "meeting house" in the subject line if you send a check.)* They also are gathering pledges. You can access all of this information, and more, by going to: <https://www.themayflowersociety.org/donate/meetinghousedonations>

If you would like to donate to the project by purchasing our **Nebraska Society pin**, that's another way to show your support! The cost is \$12.50 per pin. Please send your check to **Kathryn Morrissey, 681 North 57 Avenue, Omaha, NE 68132**. Please make the check payable to the Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants.

### Spring 2019 General Meeting Minutes Bonnie Kolowski

Governor Martin Beerman called the meeting to order.

Elder Ann Reinert gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Following lunch the Mayflower Compact was read by William Beerman. Bonnie Kolowski conducted the Passenger Roll Call. 13 family members represented Richard Warren; 7 family members represented Francis Cooke; 6 members represented James Chilton.

The Treasurers Report and the Secretary's report from November 18, 2018 were approved.

The 2019 Scholarship winner was announced. Madigan Sandra Brodsky, a senior at Westside High School was this year's recipient. Madigan will attend Stanford in the fall. She was awarded \$1,620.00.

Governor General George Garmany, Jr. MD. was the guest speaker. He presented information about the upcoming 400-year celebration and gave updates about the facilities in Plymouth as well as the progress of restoration of the Mayflower II.

Governor Martin Beerman presented a gift of Omaha Steaks to Governor General George Garmany in appreciation of his visit to Nebraska.

Elder Ann Reinert gave the Benediction.

## Donor Report (since last *Pilgrim News*)

Donor	Purpose	Amount
Michael Cox	First Parish Restoration	\$24.00
Gary Kiel	First Parish Restoration	\$12.50
Ronald Fink	Whedon Scholarship	\$100.00
Cheryl Clark	Nebraska Society	\$5.00

## Annual Members to Receive Dues Notice

Annual members will receive a dues notice in November. Dues for 2020 are \$25 and are due Jan. 1.

Members who owe for 2018 and 2019 who have not paid by Dec. 31 will be dropped from membership.

## Junior Mayflower Memberships

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](http://NebraskaMayflower.org)

## Pilgrim Utensils



Eating utensils were comprised of a knife and a spoon. Although forks came into Europe through Italy in the 11th Century, they had not made an appearance in England, and were not known to our Pilgrims; they would eat with their spoon, their knife, or their fingers. Napkins were present and the women were instructed to keep the napkins in their laps, while the men were instructed to place theirs over their left shoulder so that the napkin was readily available for fingers and for beards to eliminate trapped pieces of food.  
(from Jr. Compact, Fall 2019, MSMD)

## Welcome New Members!

Name	Number	Residence	Ancestor
Karen Fay (Stimbert) Guck	94102-1154	Omaha	George Soule
Shirley Ann (Stimbert) Burnham	94103-1155	Beaverton, OR	George Soule
Rodney Richard Ruh	94974-1156	Omaha	James Chilton
Ethan Ronald Ruh	94975-1157	Omaha	James Chilton
Robert Clair Allen	95208-1158	Papillion	John Alden
Kyle Ronald Pierce Hefner	95488-1159	Plattsmouth	William Brewster
Regan Lee Hefner	95489-1160	Plattsmouth	William Brewster
Margaret Ann (Churchill) Black	95509-1161	Papillion	William Brewster
Mary Frances (Brandt) Dolan	95734-1162	Omaha	John Alden

## Sixth Whedon Scholarship to be awarded at Spring 2020 Meeting

At our spring meeting in April 2020, we will be awarding the sixth Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants Burt & Becky Whedon Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,620 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 as 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 General 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. You will find application info on our website but we summarize it here.

## Treasurer's Report Bob Harvey

### NSMD - FALL 2019 REPORT

CASH ON HAND, FEBRUARY 28, 2019 \$ 7,491.13

#### INCOME

National Dues	46 @ 15	\$	690.00
State Dues	46 @ 10	\$	460.00
Reinstatement Fee	3 @ 15	\$	45.00
Application Fee	14 @ 25	\$	350.00
Lifetime Membership		\$	900.00
Lifetime Membership		\$	750.00
Scholarship Donations		\$	100.00
First Parish Restoration Donations		\$	36.50
Fall Meeting Meals	47 @ 35	\$	1,645.00
General Donations		\$	15.00
Interest - Checking		\$	7.74
			<u>\$ 4,999.24</u>

#### DISBURSEMENTS

Society Books		\$	48.50
Spring 2019 Newsletter Expenses		\$	349.60
Spring 2019 Meeting Expenses		\$	1,876.03
Scholarship		\$	1,620.00
Website Fees		\$	242.75
Supplies		\$	44.40
PayPal Fees		\$	13.03
Return of Overpayment		\$	50.00
			<u>\$ (4,244.31)</u>

CASH ON HAND, September 30, 2019 \$ 8,246.06

#### OTHER ASSETS

CD - 1.45% (Matures 10/3/20)	\$	16,328.16
		<u>\$ 16,328.16</u>

#### TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 24,574.22

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.

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.

For more information about our 2020 Scholarship, go to [NebraskaMayflower.org/Scholarship](http://NebraskaMayflower.org/Scholarship)



## The Winning Essay for 2019, by Madigan Sandra Brodsky

DECEMBER 18TH, 1620  
ELIZA FISHER  
4321 FIRST STREET  
MIDDLESEX, ENGLAND

DEAREST SISTER ELIZA –

IT FILLS MY HEART WITH INEXPLICABLE JOY TO BE WRITING TO YOU, BEARING GREAT NEWS OF BOTH EXCITEMENT AND UNCERTAINTY IN THE NEW WORLD. MY SWEETEST CHERUB, DAMARIS, HAS FINALLY BECOME A SISTER! UPON OUR JOURNEY, IN A DEWEY, CRAMPED CABIN, MY SON OCEANUS CAME TO LIFE, NAMED AS A TESTAMENT TO THE GREAT SEA ON WHICH HE WAS BORN. WHILE HIS BIRTH BRIGHTENED THE DARK DAYS THAT I HAD TO REMAIN ABOARD THE MAYFLOWER, I WOULD HAVE WISHED THAT STEPHEN DEPART FROM ME IN MIDDLESEX AND THAT I MAKE THE JOURNEY ONCE OCEANUS WAS BORN AND GAINED HEALTH, FOR BOTH HIS SAKE AND MINE. AS YOU KNOW, FOR OUR COLLECTIVE LEVEL OF SECURITY, HE POSITIONED ME TO TRAVEL WITH HIM RATHER THAN LEAVE ME UNAIDED IN ENGLAND WITH ONE CHILD AND ANOTHER ON THE WAY. I WAS BEGINNING TO BECOME CONCERNED REGARDING THE WELL-BEING OF MYSELF AND MY CHILDREN, AS I WAS CONFINED ONLY TO THE DAMP, FILTHY, AND CRAMPED QUARTERS OF OUR VESSEL FOR MONTHS WHILE OUR HUSBANDS EXPLORED THE SHORES OF OUR FORTUITOUS DESTINATION.

WHILE STEPHEN AND THE OTHER MEN, WHO HAVE REMAINED IN ROBUST HEALTH, BUILT LIVING QUARTERS AND STOREHOUSES ASHORE, THOSE WHO HAD FALLEN ILL WITH PNEUMONIA TOOK REST ABOARD THE VESSEL WITH US. I PRAYED DAILY THAT STEPHEN REMAIN FAR FROM SICKNESS AND WAS SOON REASSURED AS HIS EXPERIENCE IN HUNTING AND SURVEYING THE NEW WORLD KEPT HIM ALIVE AND IS OF GREAT USE TO ESTABLISHING OUR SETTLEMENT. DISEASE RAN RAMPANT IN THOSE CONDITIONS, AND I WAS FORCED TO KEEP TO MYSELF TO AVOID THE EVER-LOOMING THREAT OF DEATH, ESPECIALLY WITH AN INFANT AND TODDLER BY MY SIDE. ONLY A MONTH AFTER OUR LANDING DID DOROTHY BRADFORD FALL UNEXPECTEDLY FROM THE RAILING OF THE SHIP INTO THE ICY WATERS OF THE HARBOR BENEATH. I DID NOT WITNESS THE ACCIDENT, BUT WAS MOVED BY HER DEATH, AS I BEGAN TO QUESTION MY OWN ABILITY TO SURVIVE AND PROVIDE FOR STEPHEN AND MY CHILDREN, AS WELL FACED

TORMENTS IN MY DREAMS. I OFTEN WONDERED HOW LONG UNTIL MY FEET WOULD TAKE THEIR LAST STEPS ON THE FLOORBOARDS OF OUR SHIP BEFORE STEPPING ON SOLID EARTH.

I, ALONG WITH MANY OF THE OTHER WOMEN ABOARD, WAS NOT EXPECTANT OF PROLONGED STAY ABOARD THE SHIP, AS OUR ASSEMBLY HAD OBTAINED A CHARTER FROM THE VIRGINIA COMPANY OF LONDON. OUR PREDETERMINED DESTINATION WAS IN THE ESTABLISHED COLONY OF VIRGINIA, FROM WHERE STEPHEN RETURNED SIX YEARS AGO. WHILE OUR SHIP'S CHARTER GAVE PERMISSION TO INSTITUTE A SETTLEMENT IN THE NORTHERN REACHES OF THE COMPANY'S JURISDICTION, DUE TO A LATE DEPARTURE AND ROUGH STORMS, WE ARRIVED MUCH LATER AND MUCH FARTHER NORTH THAN WE ANTICIPATED. AFTER ATTEMPTING TO SAIL SOUTH TO VIRGINIA, IT WAS DECIDED BY THE MEN AND THE CAPTAIN TO REMAIN IN THIS LOCATION. UPON THE ONSET OF THIS PREDICAMENT, I LEARNED FROM MY SPARSE CONVERSATIONS WITH STEPHEN SMALL DETAILS REGARDING POLITICS OF AN ENSUING DEBATE, WHICH WAS RECENTLY RESOLVED. I KNOW YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN THE MACHINATIONS OF SUCH AFFAIRS, SO I WILL RELATE THEM TO YOU NOW BY MY BEST ABILITY.

ON ACCOUNT OF OUR UNEXPECTED DESTINATION, QUESTIONS WERE RAISED REGARDING THE ABILITY OF STEPHEN AND OTHER MEN HIRED BY THE COMPANY OF MERCHANT ADVENTURERS OF LONDON IN ASSERTING LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY IN GOVERNING OUR SETTLEMENT'S AFFAIRS. THE AUDACITY OF THESE STRANGERS IN ASSUMING DOMINANCE OVER THE MEN WHO HAVE FINANCED THIS VENTURE IS APPALLING! MORE IMPUDENT, STEPHEN CLAIMS, WAS THE DIVISIVE NATURE BY WHICH THEY ANTAGONIZE THE SEPARATISTS FROM LEIDEN, URGING FOR MUTINY. MY HEART TREMBLED AT THE POTENTIAL FOR POSSIBLE DANGEROUS DISSENT, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE SURVIVAL OF MY FAMILY HANGS IN THE BALANCE. I WAS RELIEVED TO HEAR FROM STEPHEN THAT A CONSENSUS WAS REACHED IN UNDERSTANDING THAT PERPETUATING THE SURVIVAL OF OUR WHOLE ASSEMBLY IS DEPENDENT ON DISREGARDING OUR DIFFERENCES. NOT JUST WAS OUR PHYSICAL SURVIVAL AT STAKE, BUT THE SURVIVAL OF ANY COHESIVE, ORGANIZED

SETTLEMENT. BY THE WRITINGS OF A MAN NAMED WILLIAM - I DO NOT RECALL IF STEPHEN CLARIFIED HIM AS BREWSTER OR BRADFORD - ALL THE MEN SIGNED AN AGREEMENT THAT IS BEING CALLED THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT, WHICH AUTHORIZES OUR LEADERS TO ESTABLISH LAWS.

ALTHOUGH IT WAS SIGNED A LITTLE OVER A MONTH AGO, THE IMPACTS HAVE TAKEN HOLD UNLIKE ANYTHING I HAVE EVER BEEN FAMILIAR WITH IN ENGLAND. IN THE OPINION OF STEPHEN AND MANY OTHER OF THE ENGLISHMEN, THE SEPARATISTS HAD A LARGE INFLUENCE IN THE CRAFTING OF THE GOALS AND STANDARDS OF THE COMPACT, AS THEY UNDERSTANDABLY TURNED TO THE MODEL OF THEIR OWN CHURCHES FOR DIRECTION. AS LOYAL SUBJECTS OF KING JAMES, STEPHEN HAS MADE IT COMPREHENSIBLE TO ME THE NECESSITY IN DOCUMENTING SUCH A CONSENSUS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE PURPOSE OF OUR ENTERPRISE: TO BENEFIT ENGLAND AND FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF GOD'S GLORY. AS I TEND TO THE FIRE IN OUR SMALL, ONE ROOM BOARD DWELLING, MY EARS SWELL WITH A TERM I HAVE HEARD TIME AND TIME AGAIN: CIVIL BODY POLITIC. STEPHEN HAS ALSO DESCRIBED THE NECESSITY OF THIS IDEAL TO ME; THE OATH OF THE SIGNATORIES IN ADOPTING AND OBEYING WHATEVER LAWS ARE NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF OUR SETTLEMENT AND TO ENSURE THE PROSPERITY OF ITS FUTURE. I AM CURRENTLY WRITING TO YOU WHILE STEPHEN ATTENDS AN ASSEMBLY OF OUR SETTLEMENTS GENERAL COURT. JUST YESTERDAY JOHN CARVER WAS ELECTED AS OUR GOVERNOR, WHO WILL PRESIDE OVER OUR SETTLEMENT AND AUTHENTICATE THE LAWS PASSED THROUGH THIS "BODY POLITIC." TO MY UNDERSTANDING, IT OPERATES IN A SIMILAR WAY TO HOW SOME SEPARATISTS ELECT THEIR OWN MINISTERS BY THE MAJORITY AND GOVERN THEMSELVES.

AS I CONCLUDE THESE ACCOUNTS OF OUR JOURNEY AND NEW HOME, I REMAIN THANKFUL FOR MY GOOD HEALTH, THE ENDURING NATURE OF MY HUSBAND, AND THE LIVES OF MY CHILDREN. I MISS YOU DEARLY AND PRAY TO GOD THAT YOU REMAIN IN GOOD CONDITION AND HAPPINESS.

GOD BLESS,  
YOUR LOVING SISTER,  
ELIZABETH HOPKINS

## Celebrating Membership Milestones

Congratulations to the following members, who have milestone membership anniversaries this year:

55 Years -- 1964

**Sara Adelaide Ainscrow**, Omaha  
**Susan Elaine (Smith) Howe**, Oceanside, CA  
**Tim Andrew Jensen**, Lewellen

50 Years -- 1969

**Constance (Peters) Freed**, Minneapolis, MN  
**Sandra (Shoemaker) Hornbacker**, Maitland, FL  
**Diane Shoemaker Loughery**, Satellite Beach, FL

45 Years -- 1974

**Jennifer Carraway**, Maitland, FL  
**Tyler Shoemaker Carraway**, Forest, VA  
**Barbara Louise (Tomczak) Fiechtner**, Berthoud, CO  
**Robert McDonald Lovejoy Jr.**, Excelsior, MN  
**David Hullhorst Peters**, Sharpsburg, MD  
**Douglas Hubert Peters**, Belleville, IL  
**Shirley Estelene (Smith) Strain**, Genoa  
**Betty Jean (Dexter) Tomsic**, Kewanee, IL

40 years -- 1979

**Wayne Julius Ruliffson**, Lincoln  
**Emily Elspeth (Cameron) Shattil**, Lincoln

30 years -- 1989

**Colleen Jane (Witt) Messing**, Westwood, MA  
**Hewett Griggs Woodward**, Orlando, FL

25 years -- 1994

**Charles Walton Davis**, Bellevue  
**Kenneth Russell Hufford**, Cooke City, MT  
**John Palmer Williams**, Bloomfield Hills, MI

20 years -- 1999

**Monica Ladette (Cass) Becker**, Wahoo  
**Ronald Myron Benton**, Ringoes, NJ  
**Constance Lee (Wilson) Conner**, Papillion  
**Todd Allen Morse**, Omaha  
**DiAnna Ruth (Rebman) Schimek**, Lincoln  
**John Clare Stohlmann**, Ft. Worth, TX  
**Steven George Wilson**, Grand Island

15 years -- 2004

**Judith Jayne (Stohlmann) Kasten**, Norton, MA  
**Linda Sue (Zabel) Samples**, Lincoln

10 years -- 2009

**Betty Joan (Schrodt) Albanez**, Papillion  
**Kristen Elise (Osborn) Cart**, Antioch, IL  
**Stephanie Sue (Witham) Donsig**, Lincoln  
**Launa Rae Fuller**, Grand Island  
**Mike Todd Fuller**, Grand Island

10 years -- 2009 - continued

**Lizabeth Ann (Pett) Heizer**, Omaha  
**Genevieve Elaine (Taylor) Kline**, Lincoln  
**Sharon Jo Lovegrove**, Fairmont  
**Thomas Dale Lovegrove**, Fairmont  
**Shirley Ann (Bumgardner) Lowery**, Burwell  
**Christina Leanna Masters**, Lincoln  
**Kathryn Rae (Foreman) Morrissey**, Omaha  
**Corene Donna (Pritchard) Phillips**, Pleasanton  
**Leedra Marlin Schneider**, Bellevue  
**Susan Jean (Lovegrove) Taylor**, Geneva

5 years - 2014

**Martha Ann (Mull) Davies**, Lincoln  
**John Frederick Keller**, Lincoln  
**Holly Ann (Heizer) O'Neal**, Evergreen, CO  
**Christopher James Richardson**, Omaha  
**Judith Lynn (Sealey) Wiley**, Lincoln



## Visit NebraskaMayflower.org

Our society has a website:

[www.NebraskaMayflower.org](http://www.NebraskaMayflower.org) It has the latest news, past issues of Pilgrim News, links to other Mayflower-related websites, a link to pay dues and meal costs, and more!

We're on Facebook, too! Like us at [www.facebook.com/nebraskamayflower](https://www.facebook.com/nebraskamayflower)

## Parish Meeting House: Why Should We Care?

I recently was asked – wouldn't the Society have been better served by tearing down the old Meeting House and using the money to erect a modern building? Certainly, a new facility would more easily accommodate technology and the current membership in a comfortable way -- without concerns for future maintenance and the other inconveniences that come with old buildings.

Aside from the fact that the congregation never would have transferred ownership under those conditions, I found myself thinking I could have done better explaining why buying this stately – but neglected—old building was a good idea. I mumbled something about the Society's members having a passion for preservation. Maybe I said the Meeting House has a rich history, is full of religious symbolism and is a rare and wonderful example of the Arts & Crafts movement. Not a bad answer—but not a comprehensive one.

Like many people in these situations, later I found a better response. The answer was in the words of two men – one from the past and one from the present. In 1899, the Pilgrim Society President Arthur Lord said the following at the dedication of this Meeting House:

*"To this generation came the duty and the opportunity to erect upon the ruins of the old church, a memorial, simple yet enduring, to the religious life of its founders, the last and best of the great memorials to the Pilgrims at Plymouth ... Long may it stand, sustaining, elevating and inspiring the life and thought of this community, its portals ever open to the 'new light yet to come.' "*

Later --114 years later -- First Parish Minister Ed Hardy said:

*"This monument should stand not for perfection, not for a particular religion, or a particular politic, but for human hope, for the desire to live a fuller life of freedom – economic freedom, political freedom, and religious freedom. This is holy ground – the holy ground of hope. The holy ground of human capacity."*

My cousins, this is the reason I believe we saved the Meeting House and are continuing to raise funds to turn it into a place that tells the story of our ancestors year-round. This old building is being re-purposed for a new mission. It will speak eloquently to future generations about what we thought was important and what we wanted to leave as our legacy.

Kathryn Morrissey

## Supplementals Approved

The Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants congratulates:

**Ruth Ellen Stearns**, Lincoln, a descendant of Pilgrim Richard Warren, on the approval of supplemental applications for Pilgrims **John Alden**, **Francis Cooke**, **William Mullins**, **Priscilla (Mullins) Alden** and **Richard Warren**.

**Robert Clair Allen Jr.**, a descendant of Pilgrim John Alden, on the approval of supplemental applications for Pilgrim **Priscilla (Mullins) Alden** and **William Mullins**.

**Patricia Grace Gertrude (White) Stratton**, Troy, N.Y., a descendant of Pilgrim Richard Warren, on the approval of a supplemental application for Pilgrim **William Bradford**.

**Steven Edward Hunt**, a descendant of Pilgrims John Billington, William Bradford, William Brewster, Francis Eaton, Samuel Fuller, William Mullins and Thomas Rogers, on the approval a supplemental application for **Edward Fuller**.

**Kathryn Rae (Foreman) Morrissey**, Omaha, a descendant of Pilgrims John Howland and Stephen Hopkins, on the approval of supplemental applications for Pilgrims **John Tilley**, **Joan (Hurst) Rogers Tilley** and **Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland**.

## 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events

To commemorate the anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower, many events are planned for 2020, including a replica of the Mayflower leading the Rose Bowl Parade on New Years Day. In particular, the Massachusetts Society will host a Naturalization Ceremony for 102 new citizens on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, who will be escorted to the ceremony by 102 Mayflower Society members in Pilgrim dress.

For details on this event, including how to dress like a Pilgrim or even how to volunteer to help, see the Massachusetts Society website: [massmayflower.org](http://massmayflower.org)



## Pilgrim News

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National Pilgrim Meeting House & Church, Plymouth, MA

