

Governor's Greetings

Dear Cousins,

I think it's quite safe to say that the early months of 2020 are like none any of us have ever experienced. And our Nebraska Mayflower Society is certainly not immune to the changes brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Out of an abundance of caution in these unprecedented times, the safety of our members, and following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), I cancelled our Spring Meeting scheduled for April 26 at Embassy Suites in LaVista. I made this decision after consultation with our Deputy Governor General Gretchen Harvey and Assistant General Kathryn Morrissey. Our members with e-mail addresses were notified March 13.

To avoid costly and unaffordable cancellation fees at Embassy Suites, we will "reschedule" this meeting to Sunday, Nov. 22. So, our Fall Annual Meeting will be in LaVista this year, not Lincoln. This will also be our celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim Landing. We will resume our traditional Omaha/Spring and Lincoln/Fall meeting schedule in 2021.

Thank you for your understanding in these unprecedented times!

The current health crisis has also forced the cancellation of our 2020 Burt & Becky Whedon Memorial Scholarship. Only a few applications were received in the weeks ahead of the deadline in March and with schools out, few more were expected. We will resume awarding the annual scholarship in 2021 for the 2021-2022 academic year.

As part of the many activities celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Landing of the Mayflower this year, I have been asked to represent our Society and share the Mayflower story—and our Society story—with several Nebraska groups this year. These engagements include:

- Omaha Public Library – W. Dale Clark (Main) Library. Sunday, May 31, 2 to 3 p.m.
- Nebraska State Genealogical Society Annual Spring Conference, Columbus.
Original April date postponed.
- Greater Omaha Genealogical Society. Wednesday, Nov. 18, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

My presentation is "The Mayflower Voyage: Cornerstone of a Nation". Celebrating the Mayflower's arrival in Plymouth Harbor 400 years ago is an anniversary that is not only a commemoration of the inspirational, determined spirit of the Pilgrims, but also marks a significant milestone of America's founding story.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you on Nov. 22 in LaVista for our Annual Meeting and Thanksgiving Dinner. Until then, best wishes for your health, safety and well-being.

Marty Beerman

Governor & Historian

In This Issue

- 1 Governor's Greetings
- 2 BOA Minutes
- 2 Directory of Officers
- 3 What's Your Story?
- 4 2020 Congress Schedule
- 4 Society Meeting Minutes
- 5 Donor Report
- 5 Membership Report
- 5 In Memoriam
- 5 Dues Reminder
- 6 Treasurer's Report
- 7 Junior Corner
- 8 Update on 2020 Congress



The Mayflower Float in 2020 Rose Bowl Parade

Fall 2019 BOA Minutes

Officers and Board of Assistants Members Attending: Marty Beerman, Kathryn Morrissey, Bonnie Kolowski, Robert Harvey, Ann Reinert, Robert Laughlin, John Keller, Stephanie Donsig, Thomas Masters, Judith Moore, John Reinert, Gretchen Harvey

CALL TO ORDER – Marty Beerman

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Bonnie Kolowski
Minutes from the April 28, 2019 meeting in Omaha were approved as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bob Harvey
The financial report was presented. There is a balance of cash on hand of \$8,246.06, and a Certificate of Deposit worth \$16,328.16. The total assets of the Society are \$24,574.22.
It was moved and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP – Stephanie Donsig
There are 83 Junior members at this time. Stephanie Donsig will step down from this position.

EDUCATION REPORT – Kathryn Morrissey
Kathryn is working on ideas for sending out tidbits of information about the Mayflower and the Pilgrims.
Kathryn will be speaking to classrooms about the history of the pilgrims and has recently spoken to a class about the Mayflower Compact.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Marty Beerman
We had 296 members at the start of the year. There were 9 deaths, 1 resignation, 2 reinstatements and 9 new members for a total of 297 members.
We currently have 10 applicants, plus 7 waiting to be approved in Plymouth. By the end of the year we will have 16 to 17 new members.

PUBLICITY REPORT – Tom Masters
It was suggested that newspapers be contacted and asked carry stories about the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower. If the story is written, the paper may be more likely to publish it.
We rely on social media to send most publicity.

GOVERNOR'S UPDATE – Marty Beerman
GSMD Proposed Member Assessment Increase:
GSMD proposing we pay more per member per year. The fee could be \$35.00
Our dues are \$25.00. Out of that \$25.00, we send \$15.00 to Plymouth.
We need to look at alternatives and make a plan to address this if this the GSMD does vote to increase the fees, this may include asking for Life Members to make donations to the NE Mayflower Society.
Marty spoke to the Greater Omaha Genealogical society and will speak to the NE Genealogical Society in April about NE Mayflower membership.
The latest General Society Brochure will be at our dinner places today.

NEW BUSINESS
Kathryn Morrissey presented the slate of Officers and Board of Assistants for 2020:
[Slate as listed to the right]

ADJOURNMENT

2020 Directory of Officers

Governor | Marty Beerman
(402) 709-3786 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) 709-3786 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

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 (2022)
(402) 432-9168 or jr6@aol.com

Fran Ruh (2022)
(402) 334-7037 or mkangaruh@mac.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 | Vacant

Membership | Marty Beerman, Omaha

Photographer | John Keller, Lincoln

Pilgrim News Editor | Stephanie Donsig

Public Relations | Thomas Masters

Webmaster | Marty Beerman, Omaha

Member Directory | Verla Ringenberg, Lincoln

Scholarship | Becky Martin, Lincoln

Scholarship Auction | Cheryl Clark, Elwood

Plymouth Meeting House | Kathryn Morrissey, Omaha

What's Your Story? By Kathryn Morrissey



As we approach the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower landing, a little self-reflection is understandable – even encouraged! If ever there was a time to break free from our Midwestern aversion to bragging, now is the time and we want the scoop!

Every one of us in the Nebraska Mayflower Society has a story. Some learned of our pilgrim ancestors as youngsters on our grandparent's knee. Others found the link after tedious and painstaking genealogical research. Likely there are dozens of versions somewhere in between.

While the plans are still in development for reaching out to the media with the local angle to this great national story, we'd love to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to jot down the highlights of your favorite Mayflower memories. Maybe it's a special tradition you have as a Mayflower family that you celebrate at Thanksgiving. Possibly there is a piece of pilgrim folklore that's been passed down from generation to generation. Whatever it is, consider capturing this information in a few bullet points. For those so inclined, write more! The goal here is to create a cache of Mayflower stories. This may be inspiration for future newsletter articles to be shared just among us cousins. With permission, we may want to put some stories in a file to pique the interest of newspaper columnists across our state.

NOW is a great time to pen your Mayflower memories! As many of us work from home and curtail our social outings, please jot your thoughts and send them to me via email at cwsofomaha@aol.com or mail them to Kathryn Morrissey, 681 North 57 Avenue, Omaha, NE, 68132. For those who operate better under deadlines, Memorial Day (May 25) seems appropriate. Once received, stories will be filed for possible future use. Because the goal is wide-spread participation, we also will gratefully accept your notes either before or at the Fall Meeting. Get those pens and word processors busy!!

In 1882, almost 140 years ago, William Halsall (1841-1919) painted this iconic image of the Mayflower arriving in Plymouth Harbor. Born in England, Halsall came to America at the age of 17, served in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War and became a U.S. Citizen in 1872. Although he was not a Mayflower descendant, his wife, Josephine, descended from Stephen Hopkins.

SAVE THIS DATE!

Fall 2020 Meeting

Our Fall 2020 meeting and dinner will be on Sunday November 22 at Embassy Suites LaVista in LaVista. We will return to our usual schedule of meetings in 2021.

Summer 2020 Meeting

Our Summer 2020 meeting is cancelled, because of the ongoing Coronavirus problems.

2020 Mayflower Congress Schedule

Great news! So far, we have over 850 attendees signed up for the Congress and celebration events taking place in Provincetown, Plymouth, and Boston on September 12-18. Highlights include:

Saturday, September 12 -The Ship Mayflower Gala at the Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum

Sunday, September 13 – Mayflower Compact re-enactment in Provincetown

Monday, September 14 – Pilgrim Progress in Boston

Tuesday, September 15 – Lots of fun tours scheduled

Wednesday, September 16 – Pilgrim Progress in Plymouth followed by Opening Ceremonies and Mayflower Garden Reception

Thursday, September 17 – Congress meets in Plymouth

Friday, September 18 – 2nd day of Congress, and 400th Anniversary Gala in the evening

The deadline to register for the events is **August 1, 2020**, and the deadline for tours is **July 21, 2020**, or until sold out.

For more detailed info, please visit the General Society of Mayflower Descendants website. I am helping organize the Pilgrim Progress in both Plymouth and Boston – thanks to Cheryl Clark, Marty Beerman, and Kathryn Morrissey from our society for helping out with this! If anyone has any questions, please feel free to get in touch with me – we would love to see you at the events in the fall!

Gretchen Harvey



Show Your Pilgrim Pride

Can you think of a better way to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of our ancestor's arrival in America than refurbishing the church on the site of their original meetinghouse 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 meetinghouse 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 "meetinghouse" 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.

Fall 2019 Society Minutes

The meeting was held at the Hilcrest Country Club in Lincoln, beginning at 1:00 pm on November 24, 2019.

Governor Marty Beerman called the meeting to order.

Elder Ann Reinert gave the invocation and Captain John Keller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members and their guests were introduced.

Following lunch, William Beerman read The Mayflower Compact.

Secretary Bonnie Kolowski conducted the passenger roll call. Richard Warren was represented by 15 family members. 9 family members represented John Howland and Francis Cooke. 8 family members represented William Brewster, Mary Brewster and Joan Hurst Rogers Tilley.

The Secretary's report and the Treasurer's report were approved as presented in the Fall 2109 Pilgrim News.

Deputy Governor Kathryn Morrissey presented the slate of officers for 2020, as listed in the Fall 2019 Pilgrim News (see page 2 of this Newsletter). It was moved and seconded to accept the slate of officers as presented. Motion carried.

Deputy Governor Kathryn Morrissey led the group in a game of Mayflower Trivia Bingo.

Governor Marty Beerman gave closing remarks and Elder Ann Reinert gave the Benediction.

Donor Report (since last *Pilgrim News*)

Name	Category	Amount
Betty Albanez	Scholarship	\$ 15.00
Bob Allen	Scholarship	\$ 30.00
Martin Beerman	Scholarship	\$ 100.00
Tiffany Boutcher	Scholarship	\$ 70.00
Walt Davis	Scholarship	\$ 100.00
Stephanie Donsig	Scholarship	\$ 75.00
Gretchen Harvey	Scholarship	\$ 190.00
Liz Heizer	Scholarship	\$ 10.00
Milada Rice Henke	General Donation	\$ 25.00
Steven Hunt	Scholarship	\$ 160.00
Kit Keller	Scholarship	\$ 30.00
Dean Knight	Scholarship	\$ 25.00
Bonnie Kolowski	Scholarship	\$ 100.00
Robert Laughlin	Scholarship	\$ 45.00
Betty Mapes	General Donation	\$ 25.00
Rebecca Martin	Scholarship	\$ 30.00
Elaine Michaud	Scholarship	\$ 29.00
Judy Moore	Scholarship	\$ 125.00
Kathryn Morrissey	Scholarship	\$ 100.00
Cindy Rademacher	Scholarship	\$ 45.00
John Reinert	Scholarship	\$ 30.00
Susan Rice	Scholarship	\$ 25.00
DiAna Schimek	Scholarship	\$ 20.00
Lee Schneider	Scholarship	\$ 15.00

Membership Report

We began 2020 with 277 members. Three new member applications have been approved since Jan 1, bringing our total to 280 members.

Fifteen applications are awaiting approval in Plymouth. Current turnaround time in Plymouth for approvals is about five months.

New member application fees are expected to increase later this year to \$125 when the Board of Assistants meets in Plymouth in September. If you have family members who are considering joining, applications should be completed now before the increase takes effect to avoid the increased fee.

Dues Reminder

If you are an annual member and have not yet paid your 2020 Dues of \$25, please pay now.

Two ways to pay:

- 1) Visit www.NebraskaMayflower.org and pay securely using Paypal or a credit card.
- 2) Send a check for \$25 payable to Nebraska Mayflower Society to Grechen Harvey, 17503 V St, Omaha, NE 68135.

In Memoriam

Ronald Myron Benton

Deceased 9 August 2019

A descendant of Edward Fuller

Joined 1999

Martha Ann (Mull) Davies

Deceased 23 August 2018

A descendant of Myles Standish

Joined 2014

Marilyn Mae (Miller) Fischer

Deceased 9 March 2019

Joined 2006

A descendant of Peter Browne, Francis Cooke,
and John Billington

Vaughn Lyman Lawrence

Deceased 2 December 2019

A descendant of Richard Warren & John Howland.

Joined 1975

He served as the Nebraska Society's Governor
1984-1986 and 2001-2006.

Jerry Duncan McInnis

Deceased 12 April 2019

A descendant of William Brewster

Joined 2000

He served as the Nebraska Society's Elder.

Shirley Ann (Baker) Nicholson

Deceased 23 March 2018

A descendant of John Howland

Joined 1953

Betty Carleton (Kimball) Start

Deceased 7 December 2019

A descendant of John Alden

Joined 2011

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

Treasurer's Report Bob Harvey

NSMD - FALL 2019 REPORT

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

INCOME

National Dues	246 @ 15	\$	3,690.00
State Dues	246 @ 10	\$	2,460.00
Application Fees	27 @ 25	\$	675.00
Scholarship Donations		\$	1,369.00
First Parish Restoration Donations		\$	12.00
Fall Meeting Meals	52 @ 30	\$	1,560.00
General Donations		\$	50.00
Miscellaneous Income		\$	67.50
Interest - Checking		\$	7.06
			<u>\$ 9,890.56</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

Society Books		\$	74.30
Fall 2019 Newsletter Expenses		\$	408.04
Spring 2019 Meeting Expenses		\$	1,762.01
GSMD Annual Assessment	277 @ 15	\$	4,155.00
PayPal Fees		\$	80.73
Return of Payment by Non-member		\$	25.00
			<u>\$ (6,505.08)</u>

CASH ON HAND, March 31, 2020 \$ 11,631.54

OTHER ASSETS

CD - 1.45% (Matures 10/3/20)		\$	16,447.73
			<u>\$ 16,447.73</u>

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 28,079.27



Visit NebraskaMayflower.org

We have a website: www.NebraskaMayflower.org
It has the latest news, past issues of Pilgrim News, links to other Mayflower-related websites, including the General Society's website, and much more.

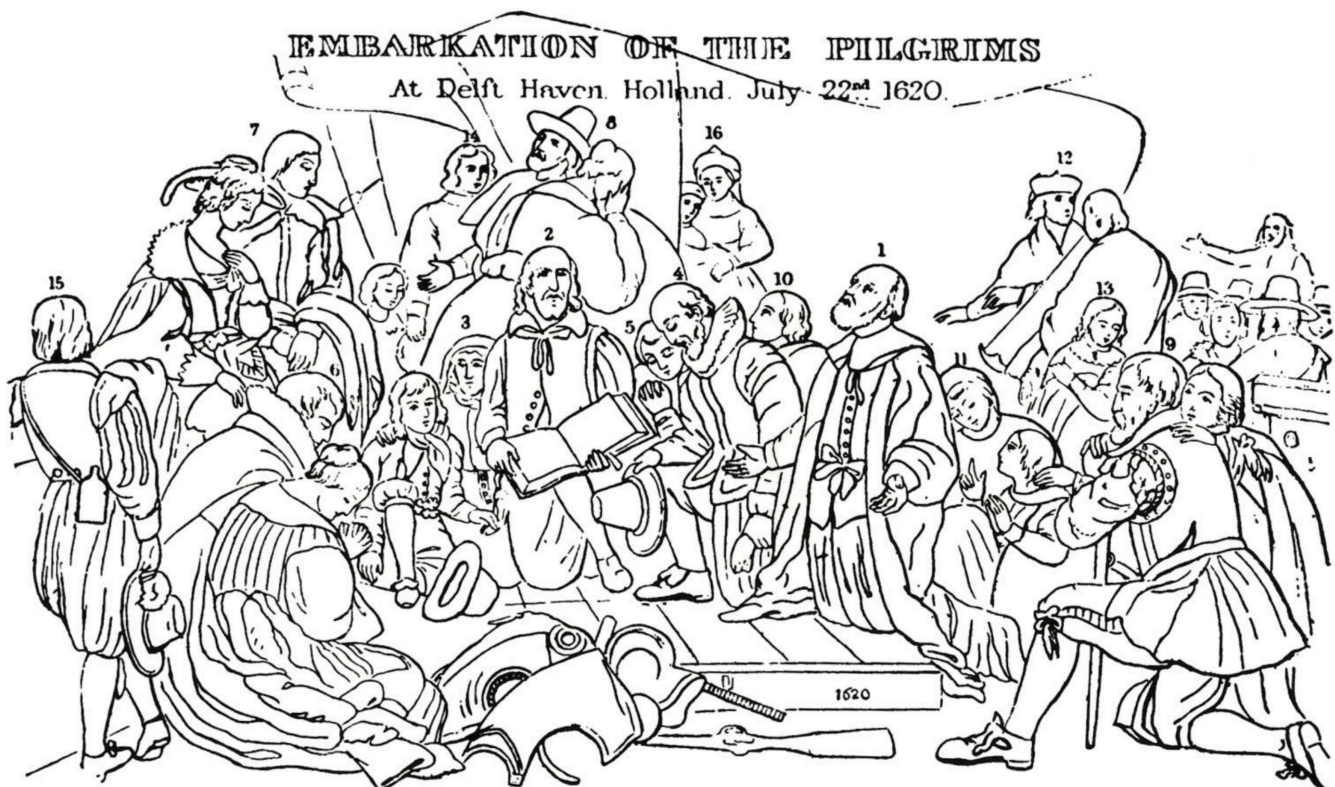
We're on Facebook, too! Like us at
www.facebook.com/nebraskamayflower



Embarkation of the Pilgrims at Delft Haven, Holland, July 22, 1620, by Robert Walter Weir. The Pilgrims are leaving on the *Speedwell* to meet the *Mayflower* for the 66 day journey to America.

This painting has hung in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol since 1843. The Architect of the Capitol has more information on the Rotunda and its historical paintings on their website; start at www.aoc.gov.

Junior Corner – coloring page



1. Mr. Robinson, pastor of the congregation
2. Elder William Brewster
3. Mrs. Brewster and sick child
4. Governor Carver
5. William Bradford

6. Mr. and Mrs. White
7. Mr. and Mrs. Winslow
8. Mr. and Mrs. Fuller
9. Miles Standish and his wife Rose

10. Mrs. Bradford; she fell overboard the day the vessel came to anchor
11. Mrs. Carver and child
12. Captain Reynolds and sailor

13. Boy belonging to Carver and family
14. Boy in charge of Mr. Winslow
15. Boy belonging to Mrs. Winslow's family
16. A nurse and child



Pilgrim News

8704 Douglas St
Omaha, NE 68114-4035

Update on 2020 Congress - September 12-19, 2020

The 2020 Congress of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, celebrating the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the *Mayflower*, is still scheduled for September 12-18, 2020. For current plans, please check the general society's website: themayflowersociety.org. As of April 11th, the Governor General and Surgeon General of the society have posted that "It would be premature to change our plans for the GSMD Congress at this early time, with all of the uncertainty about how the pandemic will evolve. The situation should be much clearer by the end of June, and we will wait until then to decide if any changes will be necessary. In the meantime, both of us will monitor the CDC recommendations and recommend appropriate actions for GSMD if necessary." For the Congress schedule, see page 4 of this newsletter.

Also, in accord with the Massachusetts governor's closure of non-essential businesses, the society offices in Plymouth are closed until at least Monday, May 4th.

Please stay safe and healthy. We hope to see you at our fall meeting in LaVista.