



Pilgrim News

Spring 2021

Governor's Greetings

Hello, Cousins!

While we've always looked forward to shedding our winter coats and sweaters, after a full year of dealing with the COVID-19, this Spring is really special.

What we've experienced since March 2020 may be a strange kind of gift. It might have brought us closer to understanding the experience of our ancestors. The fear, isolation and restrictions of the pandemic are shadows of the hardship faced by that small band of pilgrims 400 years ago. They survived cold, starvation and disease that killed half their number. But when Spring came, they planted, built, prayed and rejoiced – alongside people who held different beliefs and, in the case of Squanto, alongside a man of a different race. Although these saints and strangers had hard work ahead, likely they understood the great test they survived made them stronger. They took on the future with a renewed appreciation of good food, good company and the great rewards of working together toward a common cause and a better future.

Speaking of surviving hard times, join me in sending our best wishes to Deputy Governor John Keller, who is recovering from a heart attack. John's wife, Kit, says he's following her directions – and those of the cardiac rehab professionals – so he can snap a photo of us gathered, in person, at our Annual Meeting this fall.

Looking forward to seeing you, via Zoom, on April 25!

Kathryn Morrissey, Governor

Spring Meeting is Online on April 25th, 2021

Due to continued uncertainty about in-person gatherings and to keep our members safe, this Spring's meeting will be conducted using Zoom.

Here are the details: the meeting is **Sunday, April 25th at 2:00 pm**. There are three ways to join the meeting, using the Zoom app on a computer, tablet, or smart phone, using a web browser with the link below, or by calling a phone number. 1) For the app, open the Zoom app and enter Meeting ID: 938 0808 2097 and then (if prompted) Password: 976583 2) For the web browser, click on the link below or paste it into the web browser

<https://zoom.us/j/93808082097?pwd=WEI1MXprV0tkc1Y0Y25xVHJ1a29oZz09> or 3) call (346) 248-7799, enter 93808082097# (including the #), then (if prompted) 976583#.

The abbreviated agenda for this meeting includes:

1. Announcement of Whedon Memorial Scholarship winner
2. Investment Recommendation Discussion/Life Members

Practice Session: For anyone wanting to practice, Deputy Governor John Keller is holding a "trial run" Zoom session on **Sunday, April 18th from 2pm to 3pm**. As with the meeting, you can join using the Zoom app, using a web browser, or calling a phone number. 1) For the app, open the Zoom app and enter Meeting ID: 921 1437 0350 and then (if prompted) Password: 495636 2) For the web browser, click on the link below or paste it into a web browser <https://zoom.us/j/92114370350?pwd=NENzaEFpZGZtcEsvcm4rTGNGMThRdz09> or 3) call (346) 248-7799, enter 92114370350# (including the #), then (if prompted) 495636#.

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SAVE THIS DATE!

Fall 2021 Meeting

The Fall 2021 Meeting is scheduled for **November 21**, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, at the Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln, where we have met before.

We are looking forward to resuming our regular meeting schedule and to celebrating our shared heritage with Society members new and old.

Fall 2020 Society Meeting Minutes

Held virtually on November 14, 2020

Governor Marty Beerman called the meeting to order.

Introductions were made and new members were welcomed.

By Laws

Rob Laughlin presented the proposed By-Laws changes.

ARTICLE V – FEES AND DUES

Section 1. The Entrance Fee shall be \$100.00. \$25 is payable to the Nebraska Society. \$75 is payable to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. (Amended 2011)

Section 2. The Annual Dues shall be twenty-five dollars for the calendar year, due and payable in January of each year. The payment of dues by a member elected during the three months preceding the Annual Meeting (November) shall continue his membership until the end of the next succeeding fiscal year. A Supplemental Application Fee shall be \$100.00.

Proposed Amendments:

Section 1. Amend the "Entrance Fee shall be \$100. \$25 is payable to the Nebraska Society. \$75 is payable to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants" to read: "Entrance Fee shall be \$150.00. \$25 is payable to the Nebraska Society. \$125 is payable to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants"

[Note to members: this fee increase is due to the recent increase by the General Society in their application fee for state chapters from \$75 to \$125.]

Section 2. Amend "Annual Dues shall be twenty five dollars for the calendar year" to read: "Annual Dues shall be forty five dollars for the calendar year."

Also Amend "Supplemental Application Fee shall be \$100" to read, "Supplemental Application Fee shall be \$150."

There was a motion and second to approve the By Laws changes. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee Report

Gretchen Harvey presented the slate of Officers and the members of the Board of Assistants for 2021, as listed on this page. There was a motion and a second to approve the slate of nominees. Motion carried.

Yearly dues

Dues collection is going on for 2020 for \$25.00. The 2021 dues notices will be sent in November for \$45.00 for 2021. Dues may be sent to Gretchen Harvey.

Life Membership

Kathryn Morrissey

We have 293 members, 70 are Life members. Life members pay an amount up front and then are not assessed yearly dues. Many joined at a very low cost. Although the life member funds have been set-aside in a CD to draw interest, the amount we charged for life memberships did not contemplate an increase as significant as we now being assessed by Plymouth (from \$15 to \$35). Consequently, it won't be long before these funds do not cover the annual amount due to GSMD. To address this issue, our Nebraska Society removed our funds from the CD as it matured and temporarily put the funds in a savings account. We are considering following the example of other state societies that invest their money in conservative mutual funds that bring a higher rate of return than CDs. We also may ask life members to consider making an annual donation.

If we have members with investment experience, we will create a new Investment Committee to guide this process. Those wishing to serve should contact Kathryn Morrissey as soon as possible to volunteer.

Because of rising costs the chapter's funds have diminished. Money has been in a CD and has been moved to a Saving Account until a better instrument is located for this investment.

Kathryn Morrissey thanked Marty Beerman for all his service to the Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Marty Beerman adjourned the meeting.

2021 Directory of Officers

Governor | Kathryn Morrissey
(402) 670-3836 or kathryn@cwsomaha.com

Deputy Governor | John Keller
(402) 450-3781 or jfk120@me.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 | Steve Hunt
(531) 203-9229 or neandoz@me.com

Surgeon | Audrey Paulman, M.D.
(402) 551-22184 or apaulman@me.com

Board of Assistants

Stephanie Donsig (2021)
(402) 326-5504 or sdonsig23@gmail.com

Judith Moore (2021)
(402) 269-3480 or faysyracuse@outlook.com

Verla Ringenberg (2021)
(402) 202-8858 or vringenberg@gmail.com

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

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

Cheryl Clark (2023)
(308) 325-3849 or cherlyclark@q.com

Cindy Rademacher (2023)
(308) 627-9389 or clic1970@yahoo.com

Marty Beerman (Past Governor)
(402) 709-3786 or mwbeerman@cox.net

General Society Officers

Deputy Governor General | Gretchen Harvey

Assistant Governor General | Marty Beerman

Chairs

Education | Kathryn Morrissey, Omaha

Junior Members | Cindy Rademacher, Kearney

Membership | Marty Beerman, Omaha

Photographer | John Keller, Lincoln

Pilgrim News Editor | Stephanie Donsig, Lincoln

Public Relations | Thomas Masters, Lincoln

Webmaster | Marty Beerman, Omaha

Scholarship | Gretchen Harvey & Marty Beerman, Omaha

Scholarship Auction | Cheryl Clark, Elwood

Summer Meeting Takes a Vacation

While we hope vaccinations will allow us all to move about more freely soon, no Summer Meeting will take place in 2021.

If you have ideas about activities for future summer meetings, please email them to Kathryn Morrissey.

Our Financial Challenges

By Kathryn Morrissey, Governor



The Mayflower at Sea was painted by Gilbert Margeson (1852-1940) who grew up in Boston and was known for his marine paintings. It hangs in Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, MA.

Our pilgrim ancestors encountered greater challenges than most of us will face. I'm grateful knowing this because it lends perspective to issues that come up in our lives. Right now, we have a big challenge facing our Nebraska Society and with your help, we can overcome it. Let me explain.

After a vigorous debate that took place over more than a year, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD or "Plymouth") received approval from its State Society representatives to significantly increase the fees collected from 54 State Societies. At the 2020 virtual Congress, the annual per member assessment went up from \$15 to \$35. Said differently, **the money our Nebraska Society pays Plymouth each year, for each member, increased 133 percent!** The cost for processing applications for new members was similarly increased. These changes were necessary because GSMD was not making enough money to meet its obligations – current and future.

Like most State Societies, this unprecedented increase leaves us wondering how to pay for our Life Members. When the great majority of our life memberships were sold in the 1950s, our Society leaders could not have imagined a per member assessment of \$35 – and so the cost of life memberships was very low. And while these life member dollars were saved and invested very conservatively in Certificates of Deposit (CDs), these life member funds will not support paying \$35 per life member to Plymouth for any period of time. Unfortunately, investing in CDs going forward will not generate enough interest to help.

While we have enough money in the general treasury to make this year's payment, it won't take long to spend down our life member dollars to nothing if we begin drawing from the principle. To prevent that, your elected Nebraska Society Officers and Board of Assistants have taken short-term measures and recommend additional long-term actions. I'd like to share those with you, in the following column:

Steps Towards Solutions:

Short-term: **1.** To ensure we can pay our per member assessment for Annual Members, we've increased our annual membership dues. This was approved at our Virtual 2020 Annual Meeting. **2.** We sent a fundraising appeal to Life Members whose life member payments have been held in a CD. We asked them to consider a donation equal to the amount we pay each year to GSMD for their membership. Some have responded generously. **3.** We took our life member dollars out of a maturing CD because CDs are making almost no interest – less than 1%. **4.** We've researched investing this money in a conservative mutual fund to earn greater returns.

Long-term: **1.** We propose a modest increase in Annual Member dues for 2022. The 2021 increase was to fund per-member assessments to Plymouth. The proposed increase for 2022 would remain in our own treasury. This will be put to a vote at our November Annual Meeting. **2.** Increasing the application fee for prospective new members would help spread this financial burden. This also would be voted on at our November Annual Meeting. **3.** We recommend investing in the Vanguard Balanced Index Admiral Shares—VBIAX. *(To learn more, please go to this link :<https://investor.vanguard.com/mutual-funds/profile/VBIAX>).* While no investment in the stock market is a guarantee of success, as the name implies, this fund is a good balance between risk and reward (60% equities/40% bonds). It has earned an average of 10% over the last 10 years and 6.89% since inception. **4.** We will make annual appeals to our Nebraska Society members for donations.

General Society Meeting – Sept 8 to 11, 2021

At long last, we will be able to meet in Plymouth for this year's General Board of Assistants Meeting. The meeting will be held September 8-11. Registration is now open at the General Society of Mayflower Descendants website, <https://www.themayflowersociety.org>, where you will find the listed events.

On Wednesday, September 8, and Thursday, September 9, tours to the John Adams Homestead in Quincy and the Orchard House in Concord are in the process of being planned. On Thursday evening, there will be a reception at the Hotel 1620. On Friday, we will have our General Board of Assistants Meeting, and on Saturday, we will have our Pilgrim Progress at the Mayflower Society House. There is a banquet scheduled for Saturday evening, but as this has turned out to be a very popular event, it has already sold out. We will keep you posted if this changes.

We encourage you to call the Hotel 1620 soon to get your reservations, as the hotel is filling up quickly with the Pilgrims! If you need help finding an alternative place to stay in Plymouth, please give Gretchen a call at (402) 679-1964, as she can let you know about some hotels that might have availability. The Nebraska Pilgrims always have a great time in Plymouth, and we would love to have you join us!

Gretchen Harvey

Society Historian Brick Challenge

None of us would officially be part of the Mayflower Family without the tireless work of our historians who help us gather the documentation we need for The General Society of Mayflower Descendants. In this 400th anniversary year of the first Thanksgiving, GSMD is honoring historians, past and present, with the opportunity to place their name on a newly created brick walkway. This walkway will connect the Genealogy Research Library to the Mayflower Society House's Colonial Revival Gardens. This opportunity only is offered to the Member Societies.

The price, per brick, is \$200. An anonymous donor has put forward \$50 toward a brick with our Historian Marty Beerman's name and **seeks others to join** this effort. Any amount is welcome but in order to meet the GSMD deadline, **please send your contribution no later than May 15.**

Checks should be made out to the Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants and sent to Kathryn Morrissey at 681 North 57 Avenue, Omaha, NE, 68132.

The Mayflower House Virtual Lecture Series this Spring

The General Society is supporting several Virtual Lectures, free and open to the public, covering Mayflower Pilgrim-related topics including genealogy. The three announced lectures are: April 15, Orphan Trains: History, Genealogy, Legacy; May 20, 75 Years Later: Create Wartime Family Reunions Using Genealogy & DNA; June 17, Made in America: The Pilgrim Story and How it Grew, all at 6:30pm Eastern. For more details, see <https://www.themayflowersociety.org/2016-04-07-19-40-40/lectures>

Life Members Step Up

The Nebraska Society is very grateful for all donations, including the generous donations to sustain our Life Membership program.

Name	Amount
Vernita Bramwell	\$ 35.00
Charles Davis	\$ 35.00
George & Barbara Douglas	\$ 35.00
John Douglas	\$ 105.00
Katherine Epler	\$ 50.00
James Howe	\$ 35.00
Barbara Laughlin	\$ 100.00
Kent Meredith	\$ 200.00
Elaine Michaud	\$ 35.00

Dues Reminder

If you are an annual member and have not yet paid your 2021 Dues of \$45, please pay now.

Two ways to pay:

- 1) Visit our website www.NebraskaMayflower.org and pay securely using Paypal or a credit card.
- 2) Send a check for \$45 payable to Nebraska Mayflower Society to Gretchen Harvey, 17503 V St, Omaha, NE 68135.

Donor Report (since last *Pilgrim News*)

Like all non-profits, our Nebraska Society could use help in our efforts to meet our future obligations. One way to assist is to make a donation beyond your membership support. Will you consider a donation in honor of a member past, in recognition of a significant anniversary or just because you're generous? Any amount is welcome and will be acknowledged in *Pilgrim News*.

Name	Category	Amount
Barbara Fiechtner	General	\$ 75.00
Priscilla Grew	General	\$ 50.00
Rick & Bonnie Kolowski	General	\$ 500.00
Robert Laughlin	General	\$ 100.00
Leon Messenger	General	\$ 5.00
Kathryn Morrissey	General	\$ 125.00
Betty Tomsic	Pins	\$ 12.50

Membership Report

We began 2021 with 269 members. Five new member applications have been approved this year so far. One member has died in 2021 and one member has resigned. Current membership total is 272.

Thirteen applications are awaiting approval in Plymouth. Another dozen or so applicants are working to finish their applications.

Martin Beerman, Historian

In Memoriam

Genevieve Elaine (Taylor) Kline

Deceased 29 January 2021

A descendant of Stephen Hopkins
Joined 2009

Nancy Rose (Norris) Jellico Hildebrandt

Deceased 27 February 2018

A descendant of William Brewster
Joined 1979

Anne Godfrey (Thorne) Weaver

Deceased 23 November 2020

Joined 1970
A descendant of John Howland

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

Welcome New Members!

Name	Number	Residence	Pilgrim Ancestor
John Richard Fairhead	98692-1179	Merriman	William Brewster
Julie Marie (Lange) Gerhart	98693-1180	Lincoln	John Howland
Melvin Nagel Allen	98858-1181	Omaha	Thomas Rogers
Nancy Sue (Brock) Wojcik	98757-1182	Omaha	Stephen Hopkins
Zelda Dea (Anderson) Shoemaker	99263-1183	Grand Island	Stephen Hopkins
Kristine Andress (Dorn) Karnes	99264-1184	Omaha	John Howland
Mark Louis Laughlin	99299-1185	Omaha	John Alden
Walter L. Bilsend	99564-1186	Wood River	Richard Warren
Victoria Frances (Nichols) Winterlin	99565-1187	South Sioux City	Francis Cooke

Supplementals Approved

The Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants congratulates **Joan Marie Laughlin**, Lincoln, a descendant of Pilgrim John Alden, on the approval of supplemental applications for Henry Samson, Myles Standish and Priscilla (Mullins) Alden.

Treasurer's Report Bob Harvey

NSMD - Spring 2021 REPORT

CASH ON HAND, August 31, 2020 \$ 11,978.27

INCOME

National Dues (2020 & Earlier)	19 @ 15	\$	285.00
State Dues (2020 & Earlier)	19 @ 10	\$	190.00
National Dues	155 @ 35	\$	5,425.00
State Dues	155 @ 10	\$	1,550.00
Application Fee (2020 & Earlier)	16 @ 25	\$	400.00
Application Fee	1 @ 150	\$	150.00
Supplemental Application Fees	9 @ 25	\$	225.00
General Donations		\$	1,485.00
First Parish Restoration Donations		\$	12.50
Interest - Checking		\$	6.95
			<hr/>
		\$	9,729.45

DISBURSEMENTS

Society Books	\$	45.50
Fall 2020 Newsletter Expenses	\$	240.03
Application Fees to GSMD	\$	250.00
GSMD Annual Assessment	\$	8,505.00
PayPal Fees	\$	97.59
		<hr/>
	\$	(9,138.12)

CASH ON HAND, February 28, 2021 \$ 12,569.60

OTHER ASSETS

UBT Savings Account (COD Matured 10/3/2020)	\$	16,628.64
		<hr/>
	\$	16,628.64

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 29,198.24



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

Women of the Mayflower

D R D A L I C E M U L L I N S Y N Y
 W T E B M T H N T D D N Z E W O M D
 O S T V W A Q S V D O V T W T P O M
 L Y N T R X R W I T W I J G R R B M
 S E R I J A B Y L D H K N L O W A D
 N L Y J K Q C I M W N I V T Y R J R
 I A Q E X P H E A A L A H Z Y L E T
 W D N W L C O N N L R Y T A Z T Q Y
 H S B O S L N H I I B T L S S R E Y
 T G M R T A I B H R R L I W E L J M
 E I M R S A R T A T E E E N L S R Z
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 L L R D T P D A K N A L V L I M P B
 E A B Y R M M R G E E S D Z D L L P
 D Q K Z J R X A Q R R Y T J P W E P

Mary Allerton
 Eleanor Billington
 Dorothy Bradford
 Mary Brewster
 Katherine Carver
 Mrs Chilton
 Sarah Eaton
 Mrs Fuller
 Elizabeth Hopkins

Mary Martin
 Alice Mullins
 Alice Rigsdale
 Rose Standish
 Agnes Tilley
 Joan Tilley
 Mrs Tinker
 Susanna White
 Elizabeth Winslow

March is Women's History Month. Thanks to Cindy Rademacher for finding this topical word search.



Pilgrim News

8704 Douglas St
Omaha, NE 68114-4035

Applications Sought for Whedon Scholarship to be awarded at Spring Meeting

At our spring Zoom meeting on April 25, 2021, 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.

The deadline to submit scholarship applications is **March 31, 2021**. For more information, visit <https://nebraskamayflower.org/scholarship/>

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 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.