



The Virginia Mayflower

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Virginia

VOLUME 51

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NUMBER 1



Lee Hardin Woody
Governor

Governor's Message

As I compose this message, I am on the brink of welcoming my late husband's and my first grandchild into the world. The anticipation is profound, and the imminent arrival of this new life brings forth a deep sense of awe. The realization that our family, DNA, and history are poised to extend into the future is a truly remarkable and humbling experience. It serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of preserving our heritage and ensuring the continuity of our stories for the generations that follow.

Regardless of the unique reasons that lead each of you to be part of the Society—whether by a deep love for family, a passion for history, or a strong desire to share and safeguard our Mayflower story for future generations—I express my heartfelt gratitude for your continuous support and participation. Together, we endeavor to uphold our heritage and pave the way for a brighter future for generations to come.

*Blest be the tie that binds,
Lee Hardin Woody,
Virginia Governor*



Our Spring Luncheon Meeting

will be held

Saturday, May 4, 2024

at

**Ford's Colony Country Club
in Williamsburg, Virginia**

Address and Directions on page 11

Reception & Cocktails 11:45 AM

Luncheon at 12:45 PM

Luncheon Reservation Information
on Page 11

Online Payment or Check
Must be Received by Friday, April 26, 2024

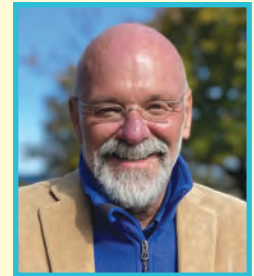


2024 Spring Meeting Keynote Speaker ~

**Richard Pickering, Deputy Executive Director
at Plimoth Patuxet Museums**

Submitted by John Alden Copenhaver and Pam Pettengell

Richard Pickering is the Deputy Executive Director at Plimoth Patuxet Museums, the living history museum of 17th-century Plymouth Colony and the Wampanoag Homeland. He has been with the Museum for almost 40 years and has served as a historical role player, research associate, Director of Education and Director of Special Projects. He is currently a PhD candidate in English at the University of Connecticut. He also studied English and American Studies in graduate programs at the College of William and Mary. Richard oversees the Museum's ongoing research as well as educational and theatrical programs. He has spoken at the United Nations and Smithsonian National Museum of American History and has appeared on C-SPAN, NPR, PBS, History Channel, NECN, NBC News, ABC's The Chew, and Martha Stewart Living Radio. He also worked on Ric Burns' film The Pilgrims for American Experience and was a consultant for the Smithsonian Channel's 2021 documentary, *Behind the Holiday: The First Thanksgiving*.



Richard's presentation on "Plymouth Colony's Contribution to the Bill of Rights" will provide an exploration of Plymouth Colony's role in shaping these fundamental rights. Here's a sneak preview of the topics that will be discussed:

"Historian Pauline Meier characterized our Nation's founding documents as American Scripture. Certainly, the Mayflower Compact takes chronological priority in the sacred texts of America's civil religion. In the absence of a royal charter and faced with mounting shipboard dissension because the Mayflower landed north of the colony's legal destination in Northern Virginia, key passengers initiated the organization of a government and legal structure by formulating a self-declared "combination" in which the necessity of forming a "civil body politic" was set forth.

Plymouth Colony was a place of political creativity and improvisation in the face of challenges and opportunities. It was a birthplace of self-government in the British Atlantic World and played a critical role in this country's constitutional tradition. The Mayflower Compact was only the beginning of a groundbreaking seventy-two-year experiment in civil government and the search for individual spiritual liberties. It is an experiment that can shine a light for us today."

**Society of Mayflower Descendants
in the Commonwealth of Virginia**

Founded January 10, 1950

The Board of Assistants

OFFICERS

- Governor Debra Lee Hardin Woody
- Deputy Governor Timothy C. Finton
- Secretary Pam Stickney Pettengell
- Assistant Secretary John Alden Copenhaver
- Assistant Secretary Gerald Dale Sailors
- Treasurer Janita C. Sullivan
- Assistant Treasurer Suzannah Carr
- Assistant Treasurer James W. Wester
- Historian Robin Comfort
- Assistant Historian Rodney Bailey
- Assistant Historian Cynthia Edmunds
- Assistant Historian Dr. Deborah Shea
- Assistant Historian Barbara Sverdrup Stone
- Captain W. Samuel Williams
- Elder Nancy Southworth Barrow
- Librarian Cynthia Irene Carlson
- Counsellor Peter E. Broadbent, Jr., Esq.
- Surgeon Dr. Arthur G. Gower III

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

- Constitution & By-Laws .. Peter E. Broadbent, Jr. Esq.
- Education Richard Weaver
- Finance Mark T. Cox, IV
- Hospitality & Special Events Pam Pettengell
- Publicity & Social Media Sean M. Bamman
- Junior Membership Timothy C. Finton
- Newsletter Editor John Campbell Maloney
- Mildred Ramos Scholarship Karen Pogoloff
- Webmaster James T. Callender
- Webmaster/WildApricot David J. Harity

PAST GOVERNORS

- Miss Mildred Ramos
- Nancy Southworth Barrow
- Martha Ellen Traband Brockner
- Col. Robert Irving Channon
- Dr. William A. Paquette
- Elizabeth Wing Carver Diakun
- Mark T. Cox, IV
- Debra Lee Hardin Woody
- James Hallett Maloney

OFFICERS TO THE GENERAL SOCIETY

- Former Governor General... Miss Mildred Ramos
- Former Secretary General .. Margaret Ash Averett
- Counsellor General James Wheaton, Esq.
- Deputy Governor General... James Hallett Maloney
- Assistant General Debra Lee Hardin Woody
- Trustee, Mayflower House Endowment
& Pilgrim Trust Mark T. Cox, IV

43rd GSMD Congress Report

Lee Woody, Marsha Masone, Karen Pogoloff and I represented the Virginia Society at Congress in Plymouth MA, in September 2023.

The Ceremonies opened in the Church of the Pilgrimage after participants paraded up the hill in the “Pilgrim’s Progress.”

It’s quite a sight to see the costumes and the Mayflower Guard in their regalia.

Following the ceremonies, we attended a reception at the Mayflower Society House which included a tour of the newly renovated building. Water damage had been remediated, and the library ceiling was restored by a conservationist. Besides the more aesthetic repairs, much needed work was done on items such as foundations, masonry, and windows. In addition to completion of the necessary renovations, a facility manager has been hired to oversee the property going forward. It is truly a lovely property and worthy of preservation.

We could not see the interior of the Mayflower Meetinghouse because of continuing work, but we saw a video that presented the proposed final features and plans for its use in telling the Pilgrim story. It will become a focal point for visitors.

After being sworn in and seated, Lee and I were present for all deliberations. Each state delegation is allowed only one vote. We always conferred with Karen and Marsha. We voted for the officers slated by the nominating committee; however, the Assistant Governor position went to a nominee from the floor. Our new Governor General is Lisa H. Pennington, Esq. from the Texas Society.

You can access the biographies of each officer in the Members Only section on the GSMD website.

We also voted in favor of all the proposed amendments. Most of these changes were in the wording of by-laws to allow for virtual meetings. Other amendments changed the titles of officials. All proposed amendments passed.

We voted for an increase in the charge for applications. This process was interesting in that increases were proposed and then voted on in turn until one passed.



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*Virginia Mayflower Society***Compact Day Luncheon Meeting**November 18, 2023 Commonwealth Club
Richmond, Virginia**Minutes**

The Compact Day Luncheon Meeting of the Virginia Mayflower Society (VMS) membership was called to order by VMS Governor Lee Hardin Woody.

- The invocation and blessing was offered by Cynthia Carlson, Librarian.
- The Pledge to the Flag was led by Tim Finton, Deputy Governor.
- The Pilgrim Pledge was led by Martha Ellen Brockner, VMS Past Governor.
- The Roll Call of Passengers was led by Debbie Misiag, Historian.
- The story of Five Kernels of Corn was told by Robin Comfort, Assistant Historian.
- The Pink Petals scholarship fundraiser was announced by Karen Pogoloff, Mildred Ramos Scholarship Chair. Members were encouraged to see Karen during lunch to participate.

Introductions

Governor Woody introduced the head table: Bonnie Wade-Mucia, Speaker; Pam Pettengell, Secretary; Tim Finton, Deputy Governor; and Janita Sullivan, Treasurer. She introduced Past Governors Martha Ellen Brockner, Mark T. Cox, IV and James H. Maloney. Governor Woody then welcomed special guests Jim Wheaton, General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) Counsell General, and Nancy Saul, GSMD Awards Committee Chair. She also relayed greetings from Past VMS Governor Betty Diakun.

Guest Speaker

After a lovely Thanksgiving luncheon, Deputy Governor Tim Finton introduced our Speaker, Bonnie Wade-Mucia. Bonnie is GSMD Director of the Silver Books Project and leads the Mayflower DNA Project. She is also a contributing researcher for the television show "Finding Your Roots."

Bonnie Wade-Mucia provided an informative presentation on the history of Mayflower genealogy - from the Encyclopedia of Descendants to the Silver Books. She explained there now are 41 books that have been developed over the years by different authors. "The Reference Guide to the GSMD Silver Book Series" is downloadable on the GSMD website, and it defines the content of each book. Bonnie explained there had never been a guide for what to include in each book, and they are now updating and revising books to meet current genealogical proof standards. Content will be drawn from original records and be footnoted. They also are creating an index of all Silver Books. The goal is to publish research on all families through seven generations, naming the eighth. This is slow, meticulous work, and some volumes have not been updated in decades, but the plan is to address every family.

Following the presentation, Governor Woody thanked the speaker and presented her with a gift. She had refused to accept an honorarium and suggested VMS might consider a donation to the Silver Books Project. Governor Woody announced the Board voted to donate \$500 to the project.

Approval of Spring Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the May 2023 Luncheon Meeting were approved by the membership, as published in the fall newsletter.

Reports:

Report of the Board of Assistants *Lee Hardin Woody, Governor*

Governor Woody reported the Board had appointed Suzannah Carr to fill the Assistant Treasurer position, recently vacated when Jan Sullivan assumed the role of Treasurer. Suzannah has a wealth of experience in the financial sector as a retired banker.

During GSMD's 43rd Congress in September, a \$25 fee increase was approved for new and supplemental applications beginning January 1, 2024. To accommodate this, the Board voted to raise the VMS fee to \$200.

Governor Woody reminded members that VMS is an all-volunteer organization. She then shared some of the behind-the-scenes activities of the Board, Committees and others who work to make the Society run smoothly.

Treasurer's Report *Janita Sullivan, Treasurer*

Jan Sullivan gave the following VMS financial report, as of October 31, 2023:

- Income was \$32,780 and expenses were \$21,298.59.
- Checking account balance was \$64,787.61 and the investment account balance was \$54,591.64.

Historian's Report *Debbie Misiag, Historian*

Debbie Misiag reported, since May 2023, VMS has welcomed 33 new members, of which 10 were transfers; 11 supplemental applications also were approved for six members. Nine applications are pending approval in Plymouth. The three historians currently have 96 applications in progress.

On May 30, 2023, VMS gained its 2000th member. Our first member was approved in 1949 and our 1000th in 2001. Historian Misiag encouraged members to have their eligible family members apply, as application requirements can change.

Since May, the historian team has transitioned to all digital applications, attended presentations by the Historian General and held three meetings. Now stepping down, Debbie noted she's been pleased to serve as Historian for the last five years.

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Junior Membership Information

Junior Membership in the Virginia Mayflower Society is available to all those with proven lineages from birth to 18 years of age and membership as a Junior may continue up to the age of 25. After Junior Members turn 18, they may apply for regular membership in the Society.

To request junior membership for your children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren, please provide Tim Finton with the following information:

1. Full name of Applicant
2. Date of birth
3. Place of birth
4. Mayflower Ancestor
5. Full names of parents
6. Contact information for parents, including address, email, and telephone number
7. Full name of Sponsor of the Applicant
8. Sponsor's Virginia and National Membership number
9. Sponsor's contact information, including address, email, and telephone number
10. Sponsor's relationship to the Applicant

The application fee is \$10 per applicant, so please pay online or mail a check payable to the Virginia Mayflower Society to Assistant Treasurer Janita Sullivan.

When the process is complete, Tim Finton will send the Junior Membership Certificate and other welcome material to the Junior Member at the address of the parents, unless otherwise instructed. Please contact Tim (his contact information can be found by logging on to the website) for mailing instructions.

If you are a Junior Member who has reached your 18th birthday, consider becoming a full member by submitting an application. Please contact your Junior Membership sponsor and the Virginia Mayflower Historian for more information about the adult membership process.

Junior Members' Corner

Submitted by the Education Committee

Welcome to our Junior Members' Corner. We have received permission from Peggy Marsh, Mayflower Society Junior Membership Chair, to reprint the below article, Three Sisters Gardening, and the Plant Dye Chart. More activities and crafts as well as these articles can be found on the Members Only Section of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants website. Suggested books and other educational resources can be found on the Education Page of the Virginia Mayflower Society website.

Spring is approaching, and many of us are turning our thoughts to the garden. Questions about what to plant, the best planting times, sunlight requirements, soil considerations, and the right fertilizer abound. Fortunately, answers are just a visit to the local garden center or a quick Google search away.

Consider this, though: Have you ever wondered how our Pilgrim ancestors mastered the art of gardening upon their arrival in the New World? Much like us, they faced numerous queries about growing food in this unfamiliar land. While they lacked the convenience of Google, they had a valuable resource in Squanto. Explore the article below to discover the valuable gardening lessons that our ancestors learned from him.

Three Sisters Gardening

In the late spring of 1621, Tisquantum, also known as Squanto, shared the centuries-old Native American method of growing crops with our Pilgrim ancestors. Since they were not farmers, the English colonists were thankful that Squanto taught them how to plant three specific plants together, where each would be of benefit to the others, now referred to as polyculture. The "three sisters" that grew well together were corn, beans, and squash. The Wampanoag used this method to plant their crops, however, the name, Three Sisters, originated with the Iroquois tribe, who believed that the three important crops were the foundation of their physical and spiritual life.

Wampanoag women planted at the first new moon after the herring began to run in the stream and Squanto showed them how to fertilize the soil by adding those small fish to the

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Junior Membership Report

Since our November 18, 2023 Compact Day luncheon and meeting, we have welcomed 6 new Junior Members to the Virginia Mayflower Society.

Junior Member	Ancestor
Hudson Zachery Tweedy*	Mary Allerton
Parker Elizabeth Tweedy*	Mary Allerton
Addison Elizabeth McMahan	Richard Warren
Catherine Scott Lee	John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley
Elizabeth McInnes Lee	John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley
Lucia Ashleigh Lee	John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley

*Brother and sister, Hudson and Parker Tweedy, also have ancestors William Bradford, Mary Brewster, John Alden, and Priscilla Mullins.

Thanks to the parents and grandparents who have sponsored these new Junior Members.

Submitted by Timothy C. Finton, Deputy Governor and Junior Membership Chair on behalf of the Junior Membership Committee

Three Sisters Gardening *Continued from Page 4*

soil. The beans were planted when the corn was about a foot tall and brought nitrogen to the soil, an important nutrient for all three (sister) plants. The corn grew tall and supported the winding tendrils of the beans as they twisted toward the sun. The large leaves of the squash plants covered the ground, keeping the soil from becoming dry and helping to prevent the overgrowth of weeds.

The Native Americans could feed large villages with the balanced diet from the three plants. The corn, a grain, produced a carbohydrate, the beans gave them protein and fiber and the squash provided a great source of vitamin A.

The bounty that was harvested in the early fall of 1621, called for a day of thanksgiving, but the day of giving thanks became a three-day feast of thanksgiving for two cultures, that eventually led to the Thanksgiving Day we now celebrate.

Dyeing Fabric in Colonial Days

Submitted by the Education Committee

Until the mid-1800's, humans used plants to color fabrics, leather, and paper as synthetic dyes had not yet been developed. Our Mayflower ancestors, who made their own clothes, learned how to dye fabrics with the assistance of Native Americans, who shared their knowledge about the best plants for the task. The below chart lists the plants our ancestors used and the color they were able to produce.



Fabric dyeing was a time-consuming procedure. After collecting the plant material, one had to clean and chop the roots, scrape the stems, and crush the leaves of flowers and nuts. Once that task was completed the material needed to soak overnight. The next day involved boiling the dye in an iron vat until it reached the desired color shade.

Before immersing the fabric in the dye, it needed to be treated with a mordant such as Potassium aluminum sulfate or baking soda in order for the fabric to hold the color. Once treated, it could then be immersed in a vat containing the dye, hot water, salt, and vinegar for approximately 15-30 minutes. Afterward, the fabric was removed, rinsed in cold water, and left to dry in the shade.

Thank You!

We thank the following for their generosity for donations from January 1 to December 31, 2023

Submitted by the Finance Committee

General Fund

\$100 and Over

Cylvia M. Toy

Mrs. Roger Stewart Talmadge

Up to \$100

Paula Bentz

Mrs. Richard Lee Clark

Mrs. Robert Letchworth

Ms. Susannah Charlotte Smither

Mrs. Harry Ward Williamson, Jr.

Gregory Wilson

Memorial Fund

\$100 and Over

Michael Dow

Up to \$100

Beatrice Flynn

Mrs. Roberta Landeck

Sylvia Webb

Mildred Ramos Scholarship Fund

\$100 and Over

Rita Earl

Up to \$100

Michael Dow

Beatrice Flynn

Mia Glickman

Robert K. Guthrie

Mrs. Diane Leslie Wakeman Laabs

Mrs. Edgar Noel

Ellen Walker

Matthew West

James W. Wester

Speaker Series Fund

\$100 and Over

*Mrs. Samuel Fishburn Woody, II
(Sponsor for Speakers Series)*

Up to \$100

Mrs. Barbara Brancoli

Mrs. William Brockner

Mr. German Pierce Culver

Beatrice Flynn

Mia Glickman

My Visit to Fenstanton, England ~ John Howland's Birthplace

Submitted by Cynthia Edmunds, Assistant Historian

John Howland was born in the village of Fenstanton, Huntingdonshire, England, around 1592. He was the son of Margaret and Henry Howland, and the brother of Henry and Arthur Howland, who emigrated after 1620 from England to Marshfield, Massachusetts. John Howland was a Separatist who boarded the Mayflower as an indentured servant to John Carver in 1620. Fenstanton is in the eastern part of England, north of London and was established around 1086.

In July of 2022, I traveled with the Pilgrim John Howland Society to England to visit the birthplace of John Howland and the birthplace of his wife, Elizabeth Tilley. Elizabeth was from Henlow, Bedfordshire, England. If you were a resident of either village, you would not be very familiar with either name or their importance in American history. As such, there has been no preservation of what Howland/Tilly ancestors would consider sacred. The only genealogical record is the parish register noting the burial of Margaret Howland, wife of Henrie, 1629 Jul 31 and Henry Howland 1635 May 17.

In memory of HENRY HOWLAND
who was buried in the churchyard
of this parish on 17th May 1635 —
Father of John Howland a pilgrim
to America on the Mayflower 1620
Erected by the Pilgrim John Howland Society 17th May 1906

The graves of the Howlands in the churchyard of St. Peter & St. Paul Church are unmarked and it is not known where they were buried. Stones were removed to make mowing easier and were not replaced. I remember hearing the same explanation about

missing gravestones in Boston when I toured the cemetery where some of our Founding Fathers are buried.

The Church of St. Peter & St. Paul was first built in the 13th Century and is a wonderfully delightful old stone church. It is still a working church. The Rector, Rev. Rosie Tallwin and the parishioners were very gracious to host our tour. They provided us with an inspiring Sunday service, a lovely lunch, and welcome home cards created and signed by all of the Sunday School children. It was all truly welcoming and I was moved to tears more than once. I was allowed to ring the John Howland church bell which sounds easier than it was, as it takes a special technique to get the heavy bell rocking. I believe I might have got it to swing enough to ring one time before my arms gave out.

The Howland name has been remembered by the Pilgrim John Howland Society with a plaque which is displayed inside the church.



Compact Day Luncheon Meeting Minutes *Continued from Page 3*

Introduction of VMS's 2000th Member

Debbie Misiag, Historian

Debbie Misiag introduced our 2000th member, Edward Kimball Thompson III, along with his father Edward Kimball Thompson II. Governor Woody presented him with his membership certificate and a gift.

Pink Petals

*Karen Pogoloff,
Mildred Ramos Scholarship Chair*

Karen Pogoloff thanked membership for their generosity in donating to the scholarship. Ann Phillips' name was drawn as winner of the commemorative plate.

Unfinished Business

43rd Congress Report *Cynthia Carlson, Librarian*

Cynthia Carlson reported on the GSMD Congress which began with the Pilgrim's Progress parade to the Church of the Pilgrimage where opening ceremonies took place. Following the ceremonies, our members attended a reception at the recently renovated Mayflower Society House. A new facilities manager has been hired to oversee the property going forward. The Mayflower Meetinghouse was under renovation, but they saw a video on proposed plans for telling the Pilgrim story to visitors.

Governor Woody and Cynthia Carlson were VMS delegates at the meetings. Each state delegation had one vote. Members Karen Pogoloff, and Marsha Masone, as well as dual members Nancy Saul and Jim Wheaton, also attended Congress. New officers were elected. Their biographies are on the GSMD website. Other votes included amendments to the bylaws and the increase in membership application fees. Congress is a time for camaraderie, meeting members across the globe and a chance to visit historic sites. One evening event, "Descendants on Deck," was held on Mayflower II. The final evening was a banquet to say thanks to the departing officers and to greet the newly elected ones. The banquet concluded with the installation of the new officers. The

next General Board of Assistants meeting will be in Asheville, North Carolina, September 6 – 8, 2024.

New Business

Report of the Nominating Committee

*Tim Finton,
Nominating Committee Chair*

Tim Finton explained the Nominating Committee was charged to develop an election slate to fill the three-year Historian position and two (out of four) Assistant Historian positions, based on a new staggered election schedule. The Committee contacted interested candidates and developed the following slate:

- Historian for election to a full three-year term, 2023-2026 – Robin Comfort
- Assistant Historian for election to a two-year term, 2023-2025 – Rodney Bailey
- Assistant Historian for election to a three-year term, 2023-2026 – Deborah Shea

Membership was asked if they had any nominations from the floor. There being none, members voted and elected the slate as presented.

Announcements

Governor Woody announced the 2024 Spring Meeting will be held in Williamsburg on May 4. The Speaker will be Richard Pickering, Deputy Executive Director at Plimoth Patuxet Museums.

Governor Woody encouraged members to attend the GSMD meeting in Asheville, North Carolina on September 6-8, 2024.

The Benediction was given by Cindy Carlson.

The 2023 Compact Day Luncheon meeting was adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

43rd GSMD Congress Report *Continued from Page 2*

In addition to business, Congress is a time for camaraderie. We met delegates from as far away as Australia. Various states set up booths for their fundraising efforts. The Mayflower Society store was also represented. Many kindred societies timed their meetings to coincide with Congress.

Congress can be a time to visit historic sites. From Plymouth, people took bus tours to Boston and Newport, R.I., and followed the Pilgrim Path. It was great to see The Mayflower II back in the harbor. One evening an event called "Descendants on Deck" allowed for socializing aboard the recently reconstructed ship. Lee and Karen were able to attend.

On our final evening, we attended a banquet to say thanks to the departing officers and to greet the newly elected officers. The banquet concluded with the installation of the new officers.

I encourage you to become involved in our Society. GSMD has national committees which you can join. These are listed on the website.

Also, the next General Board of Assistants meeting is in Asheville, NC, September 6 – 8, 2024. Put it on your calendar. In 2025, the meeting is scheduled for Texas.

Submitted,

Cynthia Carlson

Librarian, and Acting Assistant
General for Congress
September 2023

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws

May 2024

This is a notice of PROPOSED AMENDMENTS to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Virginia as required by CONSTITUTION. AMENDMENTS. ARTICLE XII, and BY-LAWS. AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS. Article VI. The following two proposed amendments, which have been approved and recommended by the Board of Assistants and sent out to the members 30 days in advance, are to be presented for consideration and action during the Society's spring meeting. May 4, 2024

*Note: Deletions are in **bold** and insertions are underscored.*

1. A. Amend BY-LAWS, Duties of Officers, Article II, Section 5 by amending the third sentence as set forth below.

Article II, Section 5, third sentence currently reads:

The Treasurer shall send each member notice of annual dues by November 10 of each preceding year, and a second notice may be sent by January 10.

As amended, Article II, Section 5, third sentence will read:

The Treasurer shall send each member notice of annual dues by July 1 of each preceding year, and a second notice shall be sent by November 1.

- B. Amend BY-LAWS, Fees, Dues and Reinstatements, Article V, Section 2, as set forth below.

Article V, Section 2 currently reads:

A member who shall remain in arrears for dues for one year after notice of indebtedness has been mailed to him/her at his/her last known address may be dropped from the Roll by the Board of Assistants. The member may be re-instated, however, by the Board of Assistants upon payment of all dues which would have accrued had the member remained a member in good standing. The Board of Assistants may, however, in its discretion, waive any portion of such accrued dues, but not for a period of less than a year.

As amended, Article V, Section 2 will read:

A current member whose dues for any upcoming calendar year have not been paid in full by December 30 of the preceding year shall be automatically dropped from membership as of December 30 of the preceding year. Such member shall be automatically re-instated, however, upon payment of all dues which would have accrued had the member remained a member in good standing. The Board of Assistants may, however, in its discretion, waive any portion of such accrued dues.

Rationale: Under the current provisions for delinquent dues, it can take two years to drop a nonpaying member. During this period, the Society must count the nonpaying member as a Virginia Society member for GSMD purposes, and pay

dues on that basis to GSMD. In recent years the Society has paid over \$3,500 a year to GSMD for delinquent members who never rejoined the Society. The amendments would accelerate the timetable for dues notices and provide that a member whose dues are not paid by December 30 (almost six months after mailing of a dues notice, and almost two months after mailing of a reminder) will be automatically dropped.

2. A. Amend CONSTITUTION, Government, Article V, Section 2, in part, by amending the second sentence as set forth below:

Article V, Section 2, second sentence currently reads:

The Board of Assistants, however, shall have no authority to amend the Constitution or By-Laws.

As amended, Article V, Section 2, second sentence will read:

The Board of Assistants, however, shall have no authority to amend the Constitution.

- B. Amend BY-LAWS, Amendments to By-Laws, Article VI as set forth below.

Article VI currently reads:

Amendments may be made to these By-Laws in the same manner as provided in the Constitution of this Society.

As amended, Article VI will read:

These By-Laws may be amended by the Board of Assistants at any regular or special meeting if the proposed amendment has been sent to all members of the Board of Assistants at least ten (10) days in advance.

Rationale: Under the current provisions, amendments to the By-Laws must be approved by the members, after prior approval by the Board of Managers. This creates a slow and cumbersome process due to only two member meetings each year. The amendments would allow the Board to amend the By-Laws in the same manner as it can amend the Policies, giving the Society far more flexibility.

From the Bookshelves ~ Submitted by Cindy Carlson, Librarian

A Guidebook Worth Your Money and Time

The Mayflower Meetinghouse – A History and Guidebook

Perhaps you have contributed to the fund-raising efforts on behalf of the Mayflower Meetinghouse. Maybe you have heard about the Society's plans, or maybe you have visited the church that was home to the congregation of the First Parish of Plymouth. In 2016, Congress's opening ceremonies were held in the historic building. At that point, the General Society had not obtained ownership of the church. In 2019, my family visited and toured the building, noting the stained-glass windows memorializing the Pilgrim story and wondering at the architectural choice for the 1897 structure. Certainly, the Romanesque church seemed quite different from the building our ancestors would have called the meetinghouse.

By the Congress of 2023, ownership had transferred from the congregation to the General Society and restoration was underway. To aid in understanding all that has happened, historian James W. Baker has written *The Mayflower Meetinghouse – A History and Guidebook*. Complete with colorful pictures and thoroughly documented, it is a helpful book that answers questions about our ancestors, the meetinghouses, and the current renovation and the charitable trust funding it.

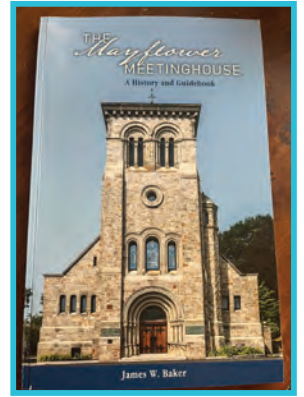
Published in 2022 by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, printed by Powder Horn Press, Inc., Plymouth, MA, it can be purchased from the Mayflower Society Shop for \$30.00.

The deterioration of the 1897 building and the events leading to GSMD's becoming involved are explained. This is interesting

reading if you have not been following how the society decided to undertake the ownership, renovation, and continued support of the building. Baker notes an eye-opening fact that the restoration of the stained-glass window of John Robinson blessing the Pilgrims cost \$300,000 in 2012. The tiny congregation did not have the means to continue work on the windows, let alone the whole structure.

After this explanation, the guidebook discusses the Pilgrim faith and their journey. It's a well-known story but a reminder is never amiss in a guidebook. The most interesting section, pages 22 to 46, is the history of the various meetinghouse structures from 1622 to 1897. The 1683 building was situated where the Meetinghouse is today. The buildings, including the 1831 structure which burned down in 1892, were made of wood. He discusses the style, the pews, the pulpits, and ornamentation of the various buildings. The design choice and construction of the 1897 building is explained as well. He finishes with five appendices. It is a concise booklet and a useful reference.

If you are planning to donate to the Mayflower Meetinghouse, buy this little book and you will be encouraged by the information to preserve another piece of Mayflower history.



Dues Notice Delivery Reminder

We would like to remind you of our dues notice delivery process.

If we have your email address on file, your dues notices will be sent electronically to that email address. This streamlined approach ensures a more efficient and environmentally friendly delivery of important information.

For those members without an email address on file, your dues notices will be mailed via USPS to the address we currently have on file for you.

If there have been any changes to your contact details, including email address or mailing address, we kindly request you to notify our Assistant Secretary and Membership Chair, Gerald Sailors, at virginiamayflowersociety+membershipsecretary@gmail.com. Keeping your information up-to-date ensures that you receive timely and accurate communications from us.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and encourage you to keep an eye on your inbox or mailbox for your dues notice, which will be distributed sometime this summer.

Dues Breakdown

Have you ever wondered what your annual dues cover? In the interest of transparency, we'd like to break it down for you. The annual membership dues for the 2024 year amount to \$50, and the breakdown of where your contribution goes is as follows:

GSMD National Dues (\$35): This portion is allocated to your national dues, which are sent to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants after the first of the year.

VMS Expenses (\$15): The remaining \$15 is dedicated to covering essential expenses, including:

- Informative newsletters
- Meeting speaker fees
- Software subscription fees
- Various other costs associated with the efficient running of the Society

As always, we appreciate your continued support in preserving and promoting the heritage of the Mayflower descendants.

Lee Hardin Woody, Governor
Virginia Mayflower Society

Historian Report

For the period between August 2023 to December 2023, the Virginia Historian Team has welcomed 13 new members. Congratulations to our new members; they are listed under their Passenger's name.

Passenger Isaac Allerton
Wade Fitzgerald Ward
Passenger William Brewster
Elizabeth Addition Chamberlain
Passenger James Chilton
Sharon Russell
Passenger Francis Cooke
Kurt Lawson
Passenger Edward Doty
David Perrussel
Passenger Edward Fuller
Rebecca Summers
Passenger Giles Hopkins
Ashlie Sears Smith
Passenger Stephen Hopkins
Stephen Meeks
Wendy Moore
Donna Ricks
Passenger John Tilley
Dillon Holdridge
Duane Holdridge
Passenger William White
John E. Young

Additionally, we had 4 Supplementals approved in this same period.

Supplementals	Passengers
Peter Williamson	John Alden, John Billington, John Howland, John Tilley

We also had 8 Transfer or Dual Members come from other societies.

Transfer/Dual Members	Passenger
Charles Dunn	Richard Warren
Erica Hahn	Richard Warren
Michelle Elizabeth Fowler	George Soule
Rachel Fowler	James Chilton
Kristen Jones	Thomas Rogers
Karen Wells	Richard Warren
William Clarence Wells III	Richard Warren
Lucille Wilkinson	Richard Warren

Historian Team Report

A lot of changes have happened since the Fall Compact Luncheon and Fall Newsletter. The Historian Team has changed leadership and brought onboard 2 more Assistants, for a total of 1 Historian and 4 Assistants. During the same period, we continued to move forward with the changes in policy and templates as required by the Historian General. One of the biggest changes was to request documents from the new applicants in jpg v pdf form; this also includes changing what documents we have from current applicants from pdf to jpg. As of 15 December 2023, all submissions to Plymouth were required to be electronic, specifically using DropBox. While there has been a learning curve, we are happy to say it was short.

In Memoriam

In 2023, we received notice of the passing of the following members. Please keep their families in your thoughts.

<i>John Blakemore</i>	<i>Jimmy V. MacNaughton</i>
<i>Erik P. Brady</i>	<i>Sherry S. Marshall</i>
<i>Catherine Lee</i>	<i>Mary Matson</i>
<i>Dougherty Cotton</i>	<i>Shirley A. McGrath</i>
<i>Elizabeth Cox</i>	<i>Carolyn McWright</i>
<i>Juanita Csontos</i>	<i>Raymond Nolan</i>
<i>Donald Emmett</i>	<i>Dean Smith Potter</i>
<i>Teresa B. Ferri</i>	<i>Evelyn Sailer</i>
<i>Richard Bacon Howard</i>	<i>Margaret E. Sawyer</i>
<i>Carolyn Hudson</i>	<i>Lea S. Schultz</i>
<i>Dorothy Ingham</i>	<i>Paul E. Tupper</i>
<i>Caramine Kellam</i>	<i>Patricia Vanbibber</i>
<i>Robert Kendall</i>	<i>Paul Whitehead</i>
<i>Francis Lindsay</i>	<i>David R. Wilcox</i>

Visit our web site:

<https://virginiamayflower.org>

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:

Virginia Mayflower Society

for updates and additional information about our member society

The Virginia Mayflower Society SPRING LUNCHEON

Saturday, May 4, 2024, at Ford's Colony Country Club
240 Ford's Colony Dr. Williamsburg, VA 23188

Time: 12:00 pm: Reception, Cash Bar 12:45 pm: Luncheon

Cost per person (gratuity and tax included): Adult: \$41.00 ; Children 11 and under: \$25.00

The Spring Luncheon will feature: Green Leafy Salad, Roasted Natural Organic Chicken Breast served over Parmesan Risotto and Asparagus, and Dessert

The Children's meal will feature: Chicken Tenders, Fries & Condiments, Cookie, Soda, Juice, or Water.

To register for this luncheon you have two options:

1 Visit <https://virginiamayflower.org/> to register and pay online

2 Complete this form and mail it along with your check to

John A. Copenhaver, Jr.
PO Box 1038
Fredericksburg, VA 22402-1038

Name	Type	New Member/ First-Time Attending?	Attendee?	Special Menu?
_____	Member	___ No ___ Yes	___ Adult ___ Child	___ No ___ Yes
_____	Guest	N/A	___ Adult ___ Child	___ No ___ Yes
_____	Guest	N/A	___ Adult ___ Child	___ No ___ Yes
_____	Guest	N/A	___ Adult ___ Child	___ No ___ Yes

Member Email / Phone Number: _____

Please list special dietary requests on this form: _____

Number of Attendees: ___ Adults ___ Children

Deadline: Online Reservation and payment OR Newsletter Reservation form and check must be received by **April 26, 2024**

Payment: Online with Credit or Debit Card Mail in Registration if paying by check, payable to *Virginia Mayflower Society*

Directions to Ford's Colony Country Club

The address of Ford's Colony Country Club is: 240 Ford's Colony Dr., Williamsburg, VA 23188

From I64 Traveling East

- Take exit 234 for VA-199 E/State Rte. 646 toward Lightfoot.
- In 0.2 miles, keep right at the fork, following signs for VA-199 E/State Rte. 646 Lightfoot/Williamsburg/Jamestown. Merge onto VA-199 E.
- In 4.1 miles, take the Longhill Rd./ VA-612 exit. Turn right onto Longhill Rd./
- VA-612.
- In 0.4 miles, at the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit to continue on VA-612 N.
- In 1.8 miles, turn left onto Ford's Colony Drive.
- In 1 mile, at the traffic circle, take the 1st exit on the right.
- This leads into the Ford's Colony Country Club parking lot.

From I64 Traveling West

- Take exit 242A for VA-199 W toward Williamsburg/Jamestown.
- In 8.8 miles, take the Longhill Rd./ VA-612 exit.
- Use the left 2 lanes to turn left onto Longhill Rd./ VA-612 W
- In 0.6 miles, at the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit to continue on VA-612 N.
- In 1.8 miles, turn left onto Ford's Colony Drive.
- In 1 mile, at the traffic circle, take the 1st exit on the right.
- This leads into the Ford's Colony Country Club parking lot.



The Virginia Mayflower

Send address changes to:

Gerald Sailors
7296 Red Cloud Court
Mechanicsville, VA 23111-4479

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The twice-a-year newsletter of the Society of Mayflower
Descendants in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Compact Day Meeting 2023 Memories

At our November 18, 2023, Compact Day Meeting Luncheon at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond, 126 VMS members and guests were held spell-bound listening to GSMD Silver Books Director Bonnie Wade Mucia share the history of the Silver Books Project and what the future holds for this very important project. In addition, we were honored to have quite a few new members or first-time attendees join us. The day was the perfect way to kick off the holiday season in Virginia.

Photos by Joel Lafayette Fletcher, III

