

**THE SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS
IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA
BOARD OF ASSISTANTS MEETING MINUTES
Compact Day Meeting November 1st, 2014**

The Board of Assistants met on Saturday November 1, 2014 at The Club in Birmingham, Alabama. Those Officers present were *Gov.* – Rich Hobson, *Dep.Gov.* – Ellie Lienau, *Sect.* - Alan M. Davis, *Treas.* - Mary Helen Mahan, *Hist.* - *Charlotte* Hobson, *Elder-* Ruby Hassell, *Librarian* – Carol Kitchens, *Assistants-at-Large & Asst. Gen* - Ann Ferguson., *Assistants-at-Large* - Pam Pittman, *Past Gov.* - Ann King

Governor Rich Hobson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the Board in prayer. He passed the agenda for the meeting and the Treasurer’s report was passed out as well.

The Secretary being late the minutes of the last minutes were not read.

UNDER OLD BUSINESS: (minutes by Ann Ferguson)

Discussions went directly into By-Laws revision.

Ann Ferguson made a motion “To increase our dues to \$30.00 annually”. It was seconded by Ellie Lienau. Discussions were held and it was mentioned that at the last meeting that we voted to increase dues by whatever the General Congress voted. They voted a \$4.00 increase. Since our current dues are \$25.00, a round number of \$30.00 was thought to be easier to remember and easier for bookkeeping. Also, since this change would be a change in our constitution/by-laws, before it can be enacted notice must be sent out to the state membership at least 15 days prior to voting on in a statewide meeting. Therefore it was recommended by Governor Rich Hobson to refer this to the new by-laws committee to be included in any other new proposed changes. All proposed changes will be included in the next newsletter which will be available at least 15 days prior to the next state meeting.

Governor Rich Hobson appointed the by-laws committee: Alan Davis, Ellie Lienau, Mary Helen Mahan, Ann Ferguson and himself. Historian Charlotte Hobson will be consulted regarding any proposed changes which will affect the Historian’s position. Purpose of the committee is to review Alabama’s constitution/by-laws and make any proposed needed changes to conform with the 28 amendments to the General constitution/by-laws that were voted on at the 40th Triennial GSMD General Congress held September 7-9, 2014.

In other Old Business Ann Ferguson made a motion “To request GSMD to remove the incorrect brick in the Mayflower House Garden in Plymouth.” Ellie Lienau seconded. Discussion: The original brick in the Mayflower House Garden has the incorrect date information on it (September 11). We requested that this be corrected to what we originally had ordered (*SMD Alabama Lest We Forget September 2011*) (*In Honor of the 10th anniversary of September 11, 2001*). At the most recent Congress it was discovered that instead of taking up the incorrect brick, they left it and just installed another, correct brick. *After some discussions* the motion did not pass.

Charlotte Hobson, current Historian and Junior Membership Chair, requested that someone else assume the position of Junior Membership Chair. *Discussions were held on this matter. It was decided to ask for a volunteer at the State Meeting.*

The discussions turned to the Historian’s job and Ellie began talking about the by-laws and mentioned that at the meeting in Huntsville it suggested that each Colony ought to have an Assistant Historian to help with the State Historian with the paperwork. It was decided to research this suggestion as to the feasibility of assistant Historians. It was mentioned that some states have them especially the states with larger memberships. It was at this time the minutes were read by Rich and were approved as presented.

Mary Helen gave the Treasurer’s report:

Beginning overall Balance 5/14/2014		\$20,842.32
Beginning Checking Account Balance	\$6,103.82	
Total Income	\$2057.00	

**SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS
IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA
Compact Day Minutes November 1st, 2014**

The *Society of Mayflower Descendants of the State of Alabama* met on Saturday November 1st, 2014 at *The Club* in Birmingham. The following Officers were present:

Governor – Rich Hobson	Board of Assistant 1-Ann Ferguson
Deputy Governor – Ellie Lienau	Board of Assistant 2- Pam Pittman
Secretary –Alan M. Davis	Board of Assistant 3-
Treasurer – Mary Helen Mahan	Board of Assistant 4-
Historian – Charlotte Hobson	*Deputy Governor General – Alan M. Davis
Elder- Ruby Hassell	*Assistant General –Ann Ferguson
Captain – Ann Kilgrow	Lt. Gov. Gulf Coast Colony-
Librarian – Carol Kitchens	Lt. Gov. Cap Colony- Alan M. Davis
	Lt. Gov. TN. Val. Colony –
	* General Society Officers

Governor Rich Hobson called the meeting to order at 11:15 o'clock a.m., welcomed and thanked everyone in attendance today.

Elder Ruby Hassell read the Elder's Prayer, Objects of the Society and the Mayflower Compact.

Gov. Rich Hobson led the meeting in reciting of *The Pledge of Allegiance* to the United States Flag.

Roll call was held and the members who were present introduced themselves, their guest and listed their ancestor(s).

Ancestors represented: John Alden-4, John Billington- 1, William Bradford-1, William Brewster-4, Peter Brown-1, Francis Cooke-1, Edward Doty-5, Edward Fuller-5, Samuel Fuller-2, Stephen Hopkins-5, John Howland-2, Pricilla Mullins-4, Thomas Rogers- 1, George Soule-3, John Tilly-1, Richard Warren-1, .

The Secretary, Alan Davis said the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on May 3rd 2014 were published in the November Newsletter he read excerpts of the minutes. Gov. Hobson asked if there were any corrections to be made. The minutes were voted on and accepted as presented.

The Treasurer, Mary Helen Mahan gave her report:

Beginning overall Balance 5/14/2014	\$20,842.32
Beginning Checking Account Balance	\$6,103.82
Total Income	\$2057.00
Total Expenses	\$1540.10
Ending Checking Account Balance	\$6,620.72
Life Dues account	\$7,309.93
CD 23125578	\$3,696.74
CD 23125969	\$3,737.83
Ending overall Balance 11/1/2014	\$21,365.22

The Treasure's report was voted on and approved as presented.

Mary Helen announced that she is accepting dues for 2015 and that there are forms in the back of the room for members to fill out if there are any changes in their status.

(A copy of the report is attached).

Gov. Hobson talked about the Society status and membership of the Mayflower Society and the heritage of the Society and encouraged members to encourage their family members to join as well. He reported that he had gone to the Gulf Coast Colony meeting held at Felix's Fish Camp Restaurant last Saturday. He spoke of our ancestors who left England to come to the New World to start a new life

Deputy Governor General Alan Davis reported that he, Ann Ferguson, Deen Rice, Ellie Lienau and Mary Helen Mahan had attended the General Congress this past September and will defer to Ann Ferguson who had a much more detailed report that was in the Newsletter.

Assistant Governor Ann Ferguson reported on the General Congress: **As published in the Newsletter:**

It was my privilege and pleasure to represent Alabama at the 40th Triennial General Congress of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants held in Plymouth, MA, Sept. 7-9, 2014. Also representing Alabama were **Alan Davis**, Deputy Governor General/State Secretary/Lt. Governor Capital Colony (who was contacted directly by Governor General MacGunnigle to act as official timekeeper during business meetings at Congress); **Ellie Lienau**, State Deputy Governor; **Mary Helen Mahan**, State Treasurer; and **Deen Rice**, Lt. Governor Tennessee Valley Colony.

A total of 479 officers, delegates, members, and guests convened in Plymouth. Congress reports and business meetings were held over two full days. Since there were 28 proposed amendments to the constitution to be voted on plus a new slate of officers to elect, business items that can only be accomplished at a triennial Congress, we did not get to most of the committee reports on the agenda. They will be published in the *Mayflower Quarterly*.

Outgoing Governor General Bruce MacGunnigle reported that on his 3-year term he traveled to 34 states (including Alabama) and signed 6,000 membership certificates for a total of 30,000 members. His three priorities during his term were to (1) promote a new sense of organization, (2) continue protecting our Society, and (3) establish open communication. The Governor General initiated a series of conference calls to the General Board of Assistants and followed up with written notes and also actions of all Exec Comm. meetings. This was an enormous help in preparing GBOA officers to become knowledgeable of the issues so as to make more informed decisions at the two GBOA meetings (2012 and 2013) plus the Congress. He also reported that there is much more awareness that our Society must follow all rules of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office and U.S. Office of Homeland Security. We have a \$1 million budget, \$2 million headquarters (the Mayflower House) and \$10 million in assets. There is a lot to protect. Another change became necessary: a board cannot have a paid officer which previously the Historian General was. So now the Historian General will not be paid and a new paid staff position, Director of Genealogy, was created. The Director of Genealogy will get all admission paperwork to the point where it can be presented to the Historian General for final approval.

The Treasurer General reported we ended the year with a \$980,000 surplus. Brown Brothers Harriman continues to do a fine job as our investment firm. We also received a \$1.95 million endowment. A part-time business manager was hired to handle daily business. The yearly budget has 90 line items all reviewed by the Exec Director, Treasurer General, business manager, and finance committee. Next, the Exec Comm. reviews and passes the budget.

The Counselor General reported that her priorities have been to (1) adopt policies for risk reduction, (2) adopt best practices for non-profits and management, (3) help in the creation of a strategic, mission driven plan for the next three years, and (4) help state societies with issues.

The Executive Director presented his 1st report to Congress. Accomplishments included two fund-raising campaigns, joining Plymouth 400 Inc., working with sister Plymouth organizations, serving as president of Plymouth Historical Alliance, developing accession/deaccession policy for the Mayflower House museum pieces, and continuing to work with staff.

The new strategic plan was presented. Four basic tenants of it include (1) fund development, (2) membership outreach, (3) constituent society outreach, and (4) administration and operations. The plan includes a process of developing goals and follow-up evaluation.

There were also award presentations and information given about the college scholarships that have been established. The CHAP (Cole's Hill Anthropological Project) committee reported that they will not be

allowed to dig on Cole's Hill for possible Pilgrim bones but they will be opening the Sarcophagus to study the bones buried there and also to repair the lettering on the Sarcophagus listing all Pilgrim ancestors who died the first winter. The Historic Sites committee reported that the next historic sites tour in England will be in Sept. 2015.

Of the 28 proposed amendments to the constitution, all of them passed, with only a few slightly modified. The main purpose of these amendments was to clarify and better organize the constitution and to adopt practices already being used. It also now includes job duties for all general officers, and the Surgeon General, Elder General, and Captain General will now be regular members of the Executive Committee. The per capita assessment paid to the General Society will increase from \$11.00 to \$15.00 each year.

New officers were then elected:

Governor General	Lea Filson, Louisiana
Assistant Governor General	George Garmany, Colorado
Secretary General	Susan Roser, Canada
Treasurer General	Donald Studley, Connecticut
Historian General	Marjorie Hurtuk, Connecticut
Elder General	Kenneth Whittemore, Jr., California and D.C.
Captain General	Reynolds Cushing, Florida
Surgeon General	Naomi Mann, Louisiana
Counselor General	Richard Gilmore, Massachusetts

Executive Committee: Members at Large

Virginia Mucciaccio, MA; Richard Denham, TX; Stephen Arnold, WA

As in the past, I will end on a personal note. I was delighted that my adult daughter, Carrie Ferguson, who I have been taking to our local Mayflower meetings since she was in grade school, asked if she could accompany me and my husband to Plymouth. After hearing about it all her life, she wanted to see for herself and immerse herself in her Pilgrim heritage. So we attended worship service at the Pilgrim's church, Church of the Pilgrimage, with their magnificent choir and newly restored Roche organ. We dressed as Pilgrim ladies and participated in the Pilgrim's Progress to the opening ceremony and then attended the welcome reception afterwards in the beautiful gardens of the Mayflower House. While I attended meetings she visited Pilgrim Hall Museum, Mayflower II, and Plimoth Plantation where she conversed with our 19-year old ancestor Edward Fuller and assured him that she saw marriage in his future. As a bonus she even got to see a juvenile whale jump out of the water on a whale-watching cruise. We then attended the closing banquet together & relished our time together sharing our heritage.

Upcoming General Society Meetings:

- 2015 GBOA meeting hosted by Connecticut, 2016 GBOA meeting hosted by Indiana
- 2017 41st Triennial Congress, Plymouth, MA, Only three years to the 2020 celebration!
- 2018 GBOA meeting hosted by Illinois
- 2019 ?

Dep. Gov. Ellie Lienau thanked everyone for coming today. She also thanked the Society for letting her go to the Congress as a delegate and added that Alabama was done proud because Alan Davis was asked to be the official "Time Keeper" for the Congress business proceedings. She mentioned that while there she went to the Mayflower House to see the "Memorial Bricks" in the garden and that the Alabama Society has 2 bricks there, one correct and the other one. She added that there are still blank bricks there for anyone to purchase as a memorial to what or whom the desire. She said she attended the Fuller Society Meeting that occurred during the Congress time and encouraged others to join the ancestors family society if they had one and try to make their meetings as well. Some societies meet on a yearly basis at various places. The next meeting in the Spring of 2015 in May will be in Huntsville. She also asked for input for programs for the meeting.

Captain Ann Kilgrow reported that as Captain she was told that one of her duties was to keep the Mayflower flag and was informed that someone would be the flag to the meeting today. She added that she had been unable to the Congress but had attended last time and enjoyed that trip but hopes to participate to attend the General Society's Board Meetings.

Before the Historian Charlotte Hobson reported she was presented with a Certificate of Award and Medal for her outstanding service to the State Society and educating children in the classroom for the Society as a whole. She reported that during the past 2 years her husband had cancer that accumulated with his death this past January and thanked everyone for being patient with her during that time. She reported that we now have 187 members, 3 new transfers in J. Daniel Barham, Allen J. Burdick, and Bruce T. Robinson. We have 4 new members Lucia Gayle Stephens Grantham, William Thomas Stephens, Paul Bran DiNardo and Glenna Susan Long Sullivan. There are 4 sets of papers in Plymouth, 1 sent out for signatures, 10 working papers had been sent to 10 different people. 1 to member transfer in. She had gotten 10 new inquiries this week, 3 new Junior Members and 2 sets of papers to send to Plymouth she said she had been busy. She then presented Glenna Sullivan with her Certificate of Membership.

Elder Ruby Hassell reported happily that no one has died since our last meeting.

The Librarian Carol Kitchens report she has her box of Librarian stuff. A round of applause was given to her

COLONY REPORTS:

Lt. Gov. of the Capital Colony Alan Davis reported that the Capital Colony will have its meeting in the first week in February 2015 and plans to have Mrs. Mary Ann Neeley as the speaker. She is the Historian of Montgomery and invited al to come.

Lt. Gov. of the Tennessee Valley Colony Deen Rice was not here and Gov. Hobson asked everyone to keep Deen's husband in their prayers. Ellie reported we had a meeting a couple of weeks ago in the Heritage Room of the Huntsville Library to learn how to get all kinds paperwork necessary for genealogy work. She invited everyone to come to Huntsville on April 25th 2015 at a Valley Hill Country Club with a local historian for the speaker. She added that that weekend will be a local arts weekend and for anyone interested in art should enjoy that as well.

Lt. Gov. of the Gulf Coast Colony Robert Howell is not hear today and Gov. Hobson added that they have a great colony and encouraged every to attend their colony meetings

NEW BUSINESS:

Gov. Hobson reported that in the Board meeting earlier that they had voted to reimburse those delegates who attended the General Congress \$200.00 each for their expenses. He had appointed a By-Laws committee consisting of himself, Alan Davis, Ann Ferguson, Ellie Lienau, and Mary Helen Mahan to review the by-laws and make current with the General Society's By-Laws recent changes. They also voted to donate \$250.00 to the Silver Book in honor of Past Governor General Bruce MacGunnigle, who spoke to our Society last November. He said he will appoint a nominating committee in the next few weeks to select officers for the upcoming term.

Jim Kight announced that Stephen Hopkins had written a book which was an account of his life called "*Here I die Ashore*" available on Amazon and Kendal.

Gov. Hobson reminded everyone will be in Huntsville and encouraged to go to that meeting and with that he said "The Kingdom is well!"

There being no further business to conduct the official state meeting was adjourned at 12:05 o'clock p.m. and Governor Hobson led us in prayer as we thanked God for our Blessings and the meal to come.

After the meal Dr. Engler is the current Governor of the Alabama Company of the Jamestowne Society, serving his second term in that office presented a brief history of the Jamestowne Settlement and its role in early foundations of representative government in Virginia.

[Alan M. Davis](#)
Secretary

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The Treasure's report was voted on and approved as presented.

Mary Helen discussed and motioned "That the State Society reimburse an amount up to \$200.00 per delegate to all five (5) delegates who went to the 2014 General Congress" Discussions were held on reimbursements in general to all General Society Meetings. The motion was seconded voted on and approved. Discussions were also held on the expense form. Charlotte discussed the possibility of setting aside \$200.00 a year for the expenses of members who attend General Society meetings. Discussions were held on tax exempt status and nonprofit status for our Society.

Assistant General Ann Ferguson had no report to give at this time, she will report at the State Meeting later. (See her detailed report in the Newsletter).

There was no Elder's Report by Ruby Hassell as far as she knows no one died. It was reported by Charlotte Hobson that Mrs. Ruth Stong, age 99+, did not die but had moved to New York.

Librarian Carol Kitchens reported she finally received all the Librarian's books and things and the 2 external hard drives.

The Historian Charlotte Hobson deferred her report to the State meeting later.

Discussions were held on publicity.
Discussions were held on the by-laws committee.
Discussions were held on scholarships.

COLONY REPORTS:

Alan Davis of the Capital Colony reported that they will meet in the first week of February speaker to be announced at a later date.

Ellie Lienau reported for the Tennessee Valley Colony they had met a couple weeks ago and that they had went to the Heritage Room in the Public Library. She also announced that the State meeting will be in Huntsville on April 25, 2015 at the Valley Hill Country Club in Huntsville.

Rich reported for the Gulf Coast Colony and that he and Ellie had attended the meeting at Felix's Fish Camp Grill Restaurant on the Cause Way in Mobile and Sid Leak, Past Governor, had presented the program. It was also announced that he had preached in Enterprise the last two weeks.

Ellie discussed the General Society's 20-20 400th anniversary of Plymouth landing and it was decided to appoint a committee at the next meeting.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:59 a.m.

Alan M. Davis

Alan M. Davis, Secretary