

ALABAMA PILGRIM

The Newsletter for the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Alabama,
a member society of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants

www.alabamamayflowersociety.com

October 9, 2015

COMPACT DAY MEETING AND LUNCHEON

November 14, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.

Board of Assistants Meeting – 10:00 a.m.

The Club, Birmingham, Alabama

*Guest Speaker – The Governor General of the General Society
of Mayflower Descendants, Lea Sinclair Filson*

Governor's Highlights

Welcome to the Alabama Mayflower Society's Compact Day event! We will meet on **Saturday morning, November 14, 2015**, at *The Club*, overlooking Birmingham, thanks again to the kind hospitality of our member Kathryn Hicks Porter. *The Club* provides wonderful views of the City, along with fine food and amenities, ensuring a pleasant event not to be missed!

This year we are especially honored to have as our guest and speaker Lea Sinclair Filson, Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Lea is well versed on the numerous upcoming events of interest surrounding the 400 year anniversary of our Mayflower passenger ancestors' Atlantic voyage into history. We also will be voting on several by-law amendments, including raising our annual dues to \$30 to offset the General Society's own *per capita* assessment increase from \$11 to \$15.

Your meeting and luncheon reservation form is found on this newsletter's last page. We will be most pleased to greet you on November 14!

Faithfully yours, Governor Ellie Lienau



LEA SINCLAIR FILSON

Governor General,

General Society of Mayflower Descendants

Once she learned she was a descendant, Lea Filson joined the Mayflower Society in the State of Louisiana. Louisiana is a relatively small society, which gave her the opportunity to get involved in several ways. Lea was Public Relations Chair at the

State level before becoming the State Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary. From May 2002-05, she served as the Louisiana State Governor. Lea has been the Editor of the *Louisiana Drumbeats* newsletter. Presently, she also serves as Louisiana Deputy Governor.

In 2002, Lea volunteered to help with the national insignia program. Governor General Bob Davis appointed her the General Society Insignia Chair. She attended Congress in 2005 after being evacuated from New Orleans, which had been devastated by Hurricane Katrina. While at Congress, Lea learned she had lost her home. Despite the damage, the GSMD insignia remained secure. Using only photographs, she sold insignia at that Congress with the help of her Mother, Ellen Sinclair of the Illinois Society. Lea continued as Insignia Chair until 2012.

In 2010, she volunteered to rework the GSMD website. Lea oversaw website changes until the work could be taken over by Plymouth Staff. *MayflowerSociety.org* continues to be updated with new content. Over 4,000 members have registered as of the end of 2014.

Lea was elected Executive Committee Member at Large at the 2005 Congress and reelected in the same position in 2008. In 2011, she became Assistant Governor General until September 2014, when she was elected Governor General, an office she is proud and honored to hold.

Lea is descended from Mayflower passengers Isaac Allerton, Mary Norris Allerton, Mary Allerton Cushman, and Degory Priest.

Her career includes many years on-the-air as a broadcaster in both television and radio. That extensive experience enabled Lea to form her consulting company, LEAF Communications, which specializes in media, marketing, and public relations.

Lea is Director of Communications for the New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation. She is happily married to Ronald Coulter Filson.

CURRENT OFFICERS

Governor - Ellie Lienau, 256.655.9452
Deputy Governor - Alan Davis, 334.270.8657
Secretary - Nancy L. Logan, 205.515.2007
Historian - Charlotte Hobson, 334.897.3510
Treasurer - Mary Helen Mahan, 334.395.8474
Elder – John A. Smith, 334.272.9496
Captain - Anne Kilgrow, 334.669.1826
Librarian - Carol Kitchens, 256.748.4056
Assistants/Members at Large -
Ann Ferguson, 256.234.4460
Pam Pittman, 334.279.7976
Deen Rice, 256.533.4991

GENERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

Deputy Gov. General - Alan Davis, 334.207.4884
Assistant General – Ann Ferguson, 256.234.4460

Your Officers are here to *serve* the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Alabama. Any time we can assist you, please let us know. We need your help, input, suggestions, and support. Please feel free to contact us with any concerns. Thank you very much.

A SPECIAL NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

A warm welcome for the 28 new members to the Alabama Mayflower Society (listed immediately below). *Fellow relatives, we very much wish to see you in Birmingham on November 14.* Please understand that a Governor General's visit is hardly an annual event! Moreover, preparations for the 2020 anniversary are on the GSMD's and the Alabama Mayflower Society's near term horizon. No one is more informed about the planning for the 400 year anniversary of the *Mayflower* voyage than Governor General Filson. She will update us all.

PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENTS AND CHANGES

Greetings to all members of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Alabama:

Pursuant to the notice provisions of Article XXI, Sec. A, of the Constitution and By-laws of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Alabama, please be informed that the following proposed amendments and changes to these By-laws will be considered at the November 14, 2015, meeting:

Proposal One. To amend **Article III, Sec., E: 3-a:**

III. MEMBERSHIP

E. FRIENDS OF THE PILGRIMS:

3. Dues:

- a. Shall be ~~¾ of the Regular Membership, rounded off to the next highest dollar.~~

To read as follows:

3. Dues:

- a. Shall be \$20.00 (See XIV: D: 9)
-

Proposal Two. To amend **Article III, Sec., I:2:**

III. MEMBERSHIP

I. REINSTATEMENT:

2. Member dropped for non-payment of dues; see Articles XIV D: 10: b and XV: C: 10.

To read as follows:

I. REINSTATEMENT:

2. Member dropped for non-payment of dues; (see Articles XIV D: 7-b and XV: C)
-

Proposal Three. To amend **Article IV, Sec., A: 3:**

IV. TRANSFERS AND SUPPLEMENTALS:

A.

3. A payment of \$7.50 transfer fee.

To read as follows:

A.

3. A payment of \$7.50 transfer fee. (See XIV: D-6)

Proposal Four. To amend Article IV, Sec., D: 2:

D. FEES FOR TRANSFERS TO THE ALABAMA SOCIETY:

2. A clerical charge of \$7.50 shall be required.

To read as follows:

D. FEES FOR TRANSFERS TO THE ALABAMA SOCIETY:

2. A clerical charge of \$7.50 shall be required. (See XIV: D-6)
-

Proposal Five. To amend Article XIV, Sec., D-J:

XIV. FEES AND DUES:

D. The fee schedule shall be:

1. Preliminary Application Fee: \$75.00
2. ~~Entrance Fee: \$10.00~~
3. ~~Preparation of lineage papers: \$15.00~~
4. Supplemental lineages: \$75.00 each
5. Annual Dues: \$25.00
6. Life Membership: Suspended November 2007 meeting.
7. Transfer to this Society clerical charge: \$7.50
8. ~~Certified copy of good standing for transfer from this Society: 50% of annual dues~~
9. ~~Certified copy of good standing for preparation of dual membership with another State Society: 50% of annual dues~~
10. Reinstatement:
 - a. A prior member who resigned in good standing can be reinstated by paying current year's dues.
 - b. A prior member, dropped for non-payment of dues, may be reinstated by paying the immediate past year's dues plus the current year's dues plus two years of the General Society's surcharge for membership charged to the Alabama Society.
11. Junior membership one-time fee (no annual dues): \$7.50
12. Friends of the Pilgrims: $\frac{3}{4}$ of Annual Dues rounded off to next highest dollar.

E. Life memberships are not transferable to other State Societies.

~~**F.** Transferee shall not pay the entrance fee.~~

~~**G.** Dues of members admitted after December 1st of any year shall be limited to the amount charged to the State Society by the General Society. Such members shall not be included in the per capita reimbursement by the State Society to the colonies.~~

H. Special Assessments shall not be levied except in cases of pressing necessity, and then only by a majority vote of the Society.

~~**I.** A fund to be determined by the Board of Assistants shall be appropriated (if feasible) to help defray expenses of the Governor or his representative to the Triennial General Congress.~~

J. (When approved for 50l (c) (3) status, dues and contributions to this Society should be tax deductible.)

To read as follows:

XIV. FEES AND DUES:

D. The fee schedule shall be:

1. Preliminary Fee: \$20.00
2. Application Fee: \$100.00
3. Supplemental Lineage Fee: \$100.00 each
4. Annual Dues: \$30.00
5. Life Membership: Suspended November 2007 meeting.
6. Transfer to this Society clerical charge: \$7.50
7. Reinstatement:
 - a. A prior member who resigned in good standing can be reinstated by paying current year's dues.
 - b. A prior member, dropped for non-payment of dues, may be reinstated by paying the prior and present year's dues plus a \$25.00 reinstatement fee. (See XV: C)
8. Junior membership one-time fee (no annual dues): \$10.00
9. Friends of the Pilgrims Dues: \$20.00

E. Life memberships are not transferable to other State Societies.

F. Special Assessments shall not be levied except in cases of pressing necessity, and then only by a majority vote of the Society.

G. Funds shall be budgeted to help defray expenses of the Delegates to the Triennial General Congress and to the General Board of Assistants meetings.

H. When approved for 501 (c) (3) status, dues and contributions to this Society should be tax deductible.

Proposal Six. To amend **Article XXV, Sec., A, J:**

XXV. STANDING RULES

A. State Year Books shall be published every three (3) years.

J. That the Society ~~set aside \$200.00 each year for the purpose of covering official expenses occurred by the Delegates to the General Society's Congress meeting held every three (3) years. (May 8, 2004; May 1, 2010)~~

To read as follows:

XXV. STANDING RULES

A. State Year Books shall be published every three (3) years and distributed to all members. Updates shall be sent yearly.

J. That the Society reimburse each official Delegate \$300.00 to cover official expenses for attending the General Society's Triennial Congress Meeting and the General Board of Assistants Meetings.

Addition **K.** These standing rules may be amended at any Board of Assistants Meeting.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

Charlotte B. Hobson
Members since January 2014

NEW MEMBERS

Joseph Daniel Barham #523 GN 83315 13th in descent from William Brewster **Transfer - Virginia**

Alan James Burdick #524 GN 74725 - 13th in descent from William Brewster - **Transfer - Connecticut**

Bruce T. Robinson #525 GN 53811 - 12th in descent from John Alden - **Transfer - Indiana**

Paul Brian DiNardo #526 GN 87446 - 13th in descent from 12th Richard Moore

Glenna Susan Sullivan #527 GN 87468 - 13th in descent from William White

John Lawrence Dwyer #528 GN 87597 - 12th in descent from John Billington

Lewey Stephens, III, #529 GN 87607 - 13th in descent from Richard Warren

Daniel Brock Stephens, #530 GN 87608 - 12th in descent from Richard Warren

Shirley House, #531 GN 67817 - 13th in descent from James Chilton - **Transfer - Missouri**

Bryan House, #532 GN 67816 - 13th in descent from James Chilton - **Transfer - Missouri**

Brenda Gouge, #533 GN 68168 - 13th in descent from James Chilton - **Transfer - Missouri**

Lesan Gouge, #534 GN 82406 - 13th in descent from James Chilton - **Transfer - Missouri**

Rebecca Claire Rouze, #535 GN 87830 - 13th in descent from John Howland

Jane Delyn Killan, #536 GN 87894 - 13th in descent from John Howland

John Alonzo Smith, #537 GN 87895 - 13th in descent from Stephen Hopkins

Betty Kathryn Barrett, #538 GN 87896 - 10th in descent from John Howland

Hazel Bozeman Phillips, #539 GN 87897 - 11th in descent from Edward Doty

Nell Rose Brooks Brackett, #540 GN 88027 - 12th in descent from John Alden

Joan Gentry, #541 GN 85851 - 11th in descent from William Bradford

Jay Guerin Maples, #542 GN 88519 - 14th in descent from Edward Fuller

Mary Roena (Ginn) Coppack, #543 GN 88520 - 14th in descent from Richard Warren

Edward Hughes Phillips, #544 GN 88560 - 12th in descent from John Howland

Elizabeth Stephens Stewart, #545 GN 88561 - 13th in descent from Richard Warren

Mary Stephens Ramsey, #546 GN 88562 - 13th in descent from Richard Warren

Mary Helen Stephens Rivenbark, #547 GN 88563 - 13th in descent from Richard Warren

Robert Elisha Ledyard, III, #548 GN 88603 - 12th in descent from John Tilly

Sawyer Dane House, #549 GN 88625 - 14th in descent from James Chilton

Manley Inge Tingle #550 GN 88805 - 13th in descent from John Alden

SUPPLEMENTALS

Norma Stubbs Pougé 13th in descent from Edward Fuller

Jerry Wayne Pougé 14th in descent from Edward Fuller

James Wesley Pougé 14th in descent from Edward Fuller

John Lawrence Dwyer 12th in descent from Elinor Billington, 11th in descent from Francis Billington

ELDER'S REPORT IN MEMORIAM

John A. Smith

May 31, 2011 **Mrs. Catherin Smith Garigan**, #85L GN 21892

February 12, 2012 **Mr. John Melvin Green**, #303L GN 54560

May 22, 2012 **Marjorie W. Smith**, #214 GN 42735
November 17, 2012 **Mr. Gilbert Chris Gender**, #374 GN 61715

August 29, 2012 **Mrs. Phyllis Gail Youngblood Wheeler**, #418 GN 69122

December 12, 2012 **Mr. Robert Elisha Ledyard, Jr.**, #317 GN 56564

April 1, 2013 Mrs. **Mary Ann Weems**, #82, GN 37012

April 26, 2013 Mrs. **Jewel R. Youngblood**, #419 GN 69121

June 16, 2013 Mrs. **Myrle Gynel Mayson Benson**, #276L GN 51835

July 25, 2013 Mrs. **Ruth Collin Stong**, (99.7), #457 GN 78794

December 14, 2014 Mrs. **Voncile Stubbs Hix**, #517 GN 86500

January 11, 2015 Mrs. **Eleanor Rosetta Scott Brandon**, #275 GN 51863

June 16, 2015 Mrs. **Mary Walton Johnson Dudley**, #184L GN 38161

June 18, 2015 Mrs. **Emalyn Henderson Spencer**, #106 GN 24990

The information above regrettably may be incomplete in some cases, and some of these members may have been reported in the Newsletter previously. Unfortunately, complete information is not reaching the Society when a death occurs. In most cases, it is well after the fact that we learn of a death. Current Members would be thoughtful to tell your families to notify the Secretary or Treasurer or one of the other Officers when the time comes.

General Society of Mayflower Descendants

General Board of Assistants Meeting

Ledyard, Connecticut

September 11-12, 2015

Training and Information Day, September 11, 2015

This was the first GBOA meeting to include an additional, optional day as a Training and Information Day, the purpose being to inform and acclimate new GBOA officers and to offer more organizational information for veteran officers. Highlights included:

- We were informed of the development of Mission, Vision, and Values statements, all of which can be found on the GSMD website and in the first ever Annual Report.
- Mission statement includes a commitment to education and lineage research.

- Vision of GSMD includes such things as to maintain the Mayflower House property, maintain research materials, publish Silver Books, participate in world planning with other organizations with similar missions and goals, active participation with member society organizations, administer revenue producing programs, solicit financial support of donors, support educational programs.
- Values statement includes such things as continuing to follow-up on our strategic plan, fundraising, ensuring GSMD's financial strength, increasing state and foreign membership, taking care of partner societies, showing respect for staff and its work.
- All members of the Executive Committee were introduced and given time to describe their job duties.
- There have been several new staff positions filled including a part-time fundraising consultant and a sales and publication director.
- Our Treasurer General again strongly recommended that state societies

who have not become a 501-c-3 do so.

- There is a Facebook page for state governors.
- There is a place to sign up on the website for monthly “Email Blasts” from Plymouth giving current updates in GSMD.
- The strategic plan which was developed in 2014 was reviewed and updates given.
- The afternoon session was devoted to meeting with one of the numerous national committees regarding future plans and then hearing the feedback of what they will be working on.

General Board of Assistants Meeting, September 12, 2015

- The first ever Annual Report was published and can be found on the GSMD website.
- GSMD will publish Cry of the Stone, a previously unpublished book by Robert Cushman, a leader and organizer of the Mayflower voyage.
- In 2016 the Mayflower Quarterly will come in the mail 4x/year. The Mayflower Journal will be on-line 2x/year in May and October.
- The Governor General and a few others (at their own expense) were going to the UK and Holland following the GBOA meeting to meet with Mayflower descendants concerning the possibility of starting partner societies there and to meet with Jeremy Bangs.
- DNA lineage research continues.
- There will be an annual appeal in November.
- The 1620 Club is growing. A total of \$69,000 so far has been raised and earmarked for among other things the Scholarship Fund and the

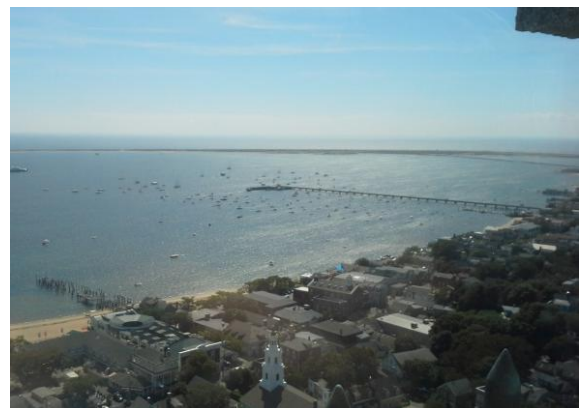
Academic Research Committee. Membership is by donating \$1,620.

- The Treasurer General announced our treasury is strong. Total income is:
 - 30% dues
 - 15% contributions
 - 15% books
 - 25% investments
 - 15% miscellaneous
- We have assets of \$10.4 million, \$10 million in cash, and no debt. A onetime museum house auction last year made \$83,000. \$50,000 is raised from the \$25 preliminary review fee.
- The Historian General reported the current wait time on applications is 10-11 weeks. The goal is 8 weeks. The apartment in the Mayflower House is available for state historians traveling to Plymouth for mentoring. DNA is continuing to be researched as to how to use it as a secondary verification source.
- The Surgeon General is actively involved with the DNA committee.
- Other countries are in the process of being contacted to try to secure new charter societies. They include Australia, England, Netherlands, and Germany.
- An indexed directory of the bricks in the Mayflower House garden walkway has been developed.
- Collaboration with the State of Massachusetts continues in an effort to repair the Sarcophagus on Cole’s Hill by 2020.
- Commemorative 2020 Mayflower stamps have been applied for.
- Commemorative 2020 Mayflower coin series must go through Congress. All are asked to contact their representatives asking their support on this.

- GSMD has numerous commemorative 2020 items for sale.
- Every state is encouraged to do something in commemoration of 2020.
- The Governor General has met with representatives of the Wampanoag tribe. They have requested, and the Governor General has agreed, to use the term “Commemoration” rather than “Celebration” in our writings, orations, and publicity regarding 2020.
- One proposed constitutional amendment was passed. That will now be sent to Congress in 2017 for a final vote. It is a change from an electoral vote to a plurality vote for the office of Member-at-Large.
- 2016 GBOA meeting in Indianapolis
- 2017 Congress in Plymouth
- 2018 GBOA meeting in Chicago
- 2019 GBOA meeting in Denver
- 2020 ONLY FIVE YEARS TO GO!

As always I will end on a personal note. Before and after the meeting, my husband and I did extensive traveling all up the eastern seaboard to Maine and on in to Canada. Two stops impacted me due to their Mayflower connection. The first was Provincetown, MA, on the tip of Cape Cod, where we climbed the Pilgrim Monument and looked out on the harbor. I could imagine the little Mayflower ship anchored out there and the weary but determined Pilgrim men conferring, writing, and signing the Mayflower Compact before they ever left the ship. We also found the plaque commemorating the “First Encounter” where frightened exploring Pilgrims and natives encountered each other for the first time and attacked. Fortunately no one was hurt. We also found the monument indicating where the hungry Pilgrims, unsure of what they could grow for food in this new land, found a cache of buried Indian corn. They took it with the intention of paying it back when the appropriate

people were located. This monument currently has two ears of Indian corn left by someone at its base.



Our other stop was Mystic Seaport where the Mayflower II spent this past winter being surveyed to determine exactly what needs to be done to get her completely refurbished by 2020. She will most likely spend the next several winters in the ship-building yard at Mystic Seaport getting this work completed. One of the challenges of repairing old wooden vessels is locating appropriate wood to use. In the shipyard were large piles of logs spray painted with a big “MF” identifying them to be used for the

Mayflower II. We learned much of this wood was obtained as a result of Hurricane Katrina.



Respectfully submitted,
Assistant General Ann Ferguson



Assistant General Ann Ferguson, Acting Deputy Governor
General Michel Marcoux, GBOA meeting, Ledyard,
Connecticut

Message from the Treasurer

Because of the dues increase that will be put to vote at our November 14, 2015, meeting, your 2016 dues notice is not included in this newsletter (as it has been in recent years). I will wait until after our November 14 meeting and the Society's decision on our dues to send out the invoices.

I encourage you to support the dues increase so that we can meet our obligations to the General Society and our Colonies. I thank you in advance for replying promptly once you have received your 2016 dues notice.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me either by phone (334.201.6070), at Post Office Box 230893, Montgomery, Alabama 36123, or by E-mail mhm.smdal@charter.net .

Respectfully yours,

Treasurer Mary Helen Mahan

The Mayflower Society
General Society of Mayflower Descendants
Founded at Plymouth, Massachusetts, 1897

Any person able to document their descent from one or more of the following Mayflower Pilgrims is eligible to apply for membership in the Mayflower Society:

John Alden	Francis Cooke	Priscilla Mullins
Bartholomew Allerton	John Cooke	William Mullins
Isaac Allerton	Edward Doty	Degory Priest
Mary (Norris) Allerton	Francis Eaton	Joseph Rogers
Mary Allerton	Samuel Eaton	Thomas Rogers
Remember Allerton	Sarah Eaton	Henry Samson
Elinor Billington	Moses Fletcher	George Soule
Francis Billington	Edward Fuller	Myles Standish
John Billington	Mrs. Edward Fuller	Elizabeth Tilley
William Bradford	Samuel Fuller	John Tilley
Love Brewster	Samuel Fuller (son of Edw.)	Joan (Hurst) Tilley
Mary Brewster	Constance Hopkins	Richard Warren
William Brewster	Elizabeth (Fisher) Hopkins	Peregrine White
Peter Browne	Giles Hopkins	Resolved White
James Chilton	Stephen Hopkins	Susannah White
Mrs. James Chilton	John Howland	William White
Mary Chilton	Richard More	Edward Winslow

Many families hold a tradition that they are descended from the Pilgrims, which often kindles an interest in finding out more. Sometimes, the stories of a Mayflower heritage are true and it is easy to document a descent. More often, the documentation is missing and must be researched and supplied to prove your line.

The good news is that advanced research techniques, improved genealogy library collections, and computerized resources have made it easier to track down your Pilgrim roots.

The best documentation to look for is vital records such as the birth, marriage, and death certificates for each person. Other documentation might be published genealogies, family documents, and other official records. Also, if you have a relative who is a member of the Society, you may be able to use their lineage documentation to help you with your own documentation research.

Memberships are handled through individual state societies. As a first step, you may contact your state society or



you may inquire about a possible Mayflower line using the Preliminary Review Form found at www.themayflowersociety.com.

If you would like to make an inquiry about Alabama Mayflower Society membership, please contact Alabama Society Historian Charlotte Hobson (334.897.3510, chobson@troycable.net) or the national office at 508.746.3188. www.themayflowersociety.org

We are publishing these unapproved minutes of the Annual Meeting for two reasons. The most important is so that those who are unable to attend will learn of the activities of our Society at our meetings. Hopefully, you will find something of interest and will decide to make the effort to attend. The other reason is so that those who attended might be better prepared to approve the minutes without having them read at the meetings, saving meeting time.



SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS **IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA** **Annual Meeting, April 25, 2015**

The *Society of Mayflower Descendants of the State of Alabama* met on Saturday, April 25, 2015, at the Valley Hill Country Club in Huntsville, Alabama. The following Officers were present: Governor – Rich Hobson, Deputy Governor – Ellie Lienau, Secretary, Dep. Gov. Gen., Lt. Gov. Capital Colony – Alan M. Davis, Treasurer – Mary Helen Mahan, Historian – Charlotte Hobson, BOA Assistant 2- Pam Pittman, BOA Assistant 4, Lt. Gov. Tennessee Valley Colony - Deen Rice.

Governor Rich Hobson called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m., welcomed and thanked everyone in attendance.

John A. Smith read the Elder's Prayer. Gov. Rich Hobson read the *Mayflower Compact*, Deen Rice read the *Objects of the Society*, and Gov. Hobson led the meeting in reciting *The Pledge of Allegiance* to the United States Flag.

Roll call was held and the members present introduced themselves, their guests and listed their ancestor(s). There were a total of thirty-four members and guests.

Ancestors represented: John Alden-6, John Billington-1, William Bradford-1, William Brewster-4, Peter Browne-1, Francis Cooke-1, Edward Doty-5, Edward Fuller-5, Samuel Fuller-2, Stephen Hopkins-5, John Howland-2, Richard Moore-1, Pricilla Mullins-6, 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 November 1, 2014, were published in the Newsletter. Gov. Hobson asked if there were any corrections to be made. The minutes were voted on and accepted as presented in the Newsletter.

The **Treasurer**, Mary Helen Mahan, gave her report:

Beginning overall Balance (All Accounts) 11/1/2014		\$21,365.22
Beginning Checking Account Balance		\$6,620.72
Total Income		\$4,787.50
Total Expenses	\$5,172.08	
Ending Checking Account Balance		\$6,236.14
Life Dues account		\$6,705.30
CD 23125578		\$3,698.58
CD 23125969		<u>\$3,742.18</u>
Ending overall Balance 4/25/2015		\$20,382.20

Mary Helen reported on the status of the various accounts of our Society and expressed concern over the Life Dues accounts. She also reported on the new policies required by the General Society regarding the application fees and an increase in the *per capita* tax/dues. Mary Helen suggested that we do some educational programs for the juniors in the future. Gov. Hobson added that the Kingdom is solvent! The Treasurer's report was voted on and approved as presented.

Governor Richard Hobson expressed his feelings as outgoing Governor and said it has been a great three years. Our Society has grown by 42 new members. He thanked everyone for shaking their family trees to add to our membership. He reported that he had gone to the Gulf Coast Colony meeting in November. Also, he added that he has spoken at a church about the faith of our Mayflower ancestors. He mentioned that he was at a church Bible study, and said they discussed the Mayflower Compact. He pointed out that it states "For the Glory of God" and asked if today if we would have the faith and fortitude our ancestors had to do what they did in their time. He generally discussed our Pilgrim heritage and thanked everyone for having a good three years.

Deputy Governor Ellie Lienau thanked everyone who came today and said Huntsville is her Colony, the Tennessee Valley Colony. She encouraged others to attend all the meetings of our Society. She noted that our next meeting will be in Birmingham at *The Club* on November 14th, with our speaker being the General Society of Mayflower Descendants Governor General, Lea Sinclair Filson. Ellie implored everyone to attend to learn what is going on in the General Society.

Historian Charlotte Hobson said we have had 42 new members in the last three years: We got seven (7) in 2012, ten (10) in 2013, nineteen (19) in 2014, and six (6) so far this year. There is one set of papers now in Plymouth and two more to be mailed this coming week. We have six new Junior Members. There are one hundred and four (104) people we are working on in various stages. She noted that how some fail to follow up on their papers when they find out they have to pay an application fee. We had five rejections in the past year. Charlotte has copies of forms for junior membership and instructions on how to be a junior member. She presented a membership certificate to Deen Rice for a new member Nell Rose Brooks Bracket. Charlotte

also presented two supplementals to Gov. Hobson, her son: one for Francis Cooke and one for John Howland. Gov. Hobson commented that he usually gets these for his birthday.

No Elder's report.

No Captain's report.

No Librarian's report.

Deputy Governor General Alan Davis reported that as D.G.G. he and Ann Ferguson, the **Assistant General**, are by office *General Society Officers*. He reported on the September 2014 General Congress that he, Ann, Ellie Lienau, Mary Helen Mahan, and Deen Rice had attended. Alan said it was a smooth Congress meeting. He reported that the General Board of Assistants meeting will be in Connecticut this coming September and hopes to attend it. Also, the next General Board meeting will be in Indiana in 2016, and he hopes to attend. The next (41st) GSMD Triennial Congress will be in September, 2017, in Plymouth. He asked if anyone present knew the whereabouts of the State Society's Charter and Seal. If so, he asked that they please let one of the officers know. Alan said that we have the Flag of the Society, which will be given to the incoming Captain. He reported as **Secretary** that the status of the Alabama Society membership is that we had 194 members as of December 31, 2014. He reported as **Lt. Gov. of the Capital Colony** that their meeting will be the first Saturday in August and that he has a speaker in mind. An announcement will be forthcoming.

Lt. Gov. of the Tennessee Valley Colony Deen Rice reported that this is our meeting and that their next meeting will be on November 7th.

Gov. Hobson reported for the Lt. Gov. of the Gulf Coast Colony Robert Howell, who was not present, and said their meeting will be in two weeks on May 9th. Gov. Hobson added that we have three Colonies: the Capital, Gulf Coast, and the Tennessee Valley. He said that there are possible plans to create a new colony in the Birmingham area and that he is thankful we have a vibrant Society.

OLD BUSINESS:

Gov. Hobson reported that we are in the process of an intensive review of our By-laws. He said 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 them current with the General Society's recent By-Laws changes. There may be a copy of the revisions available by the November meeting.

Ellie announced that in Plymouth there are plans to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Plymouth landing. The project is called "Twenty-Twenty" (2020). Charlotte added that she went to England with her parents and about 100 other people on the 350th anniversary of the Landing and hopes to go on the trip planned in 2020. Ellie added that there are Pilgrim Family Societies and encouraged all to think about joining them.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gov. Rich Hobson presented the results of the Nominating Committee with the following potential slate of officers for the ensuing term:

Governor	Eleanor Lienau
Deputy Governor	Alan M. Davis

Secretary Nancy L. Logan
Treasurer Mary Helen Mahan
Historian Charlotte Hobson
Elder John A. Smith
Captain Anne Kilgrow
Librarian Carol Kitchens
Assistant/Members at Large:
1 – Ann R. Ferguson
2 – Robert Howell
3 – Pam Pittman
4 – Deen Rice

General Society Officers:
Deputy Governor General – Alan M. Davis
Assistant General – Ann R. Ferguson

The slate of officers was accepted, voted on, and approved as presented.

Gov. Hobson’s parting words to the assembly were to encourage all to keep adding members to keep the relationships we build within our rich, Godly, Society heritage.

Ken Mahan acted as Marshal and swore in all the Officers for the ensuing term: Rich Hobson passed the Governor’s medal and gavel to Mrs. Eleanor Lienau. Governor Lienau then presented Rich with the Past Governor’s Medal and a gift.

There being no further business to conduct, the official state meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. Past Governor Hobson led us in prayer as we thanked God for our blessings and for the meal to come.

After the meal, Huntsville resident and New Mexico native Mrs. Jacquelyn Procter Reeves noted that some of her ancestors were early settlers of the Huntsville area. She gave an informative talk concerning the superstitions of our ancestors, explaining the origins of common sayings, such as “Knock on wood”, and customs, such as hanging horseshoes above doorways. She also discussed “good luck” and “bad luck” superstitions and witchcraft. *See* short article below.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan M. Davis, Outgoing Secretary

HUNTSVILLE HISTORIAN
DISCUSSES PRESENT-DAY
SUPERSTITIONS AND THE
SALEM WITCHCRAFT
TRIALS

On April 25, 2015, Huntsville historian Jacquelyn Procter Reeves gave examples of modern superstitions to help understand the 1692-93 Massachusetts witchcraft trials. Speaking at the Alabama Mayflower Society’s annual meeting at Valley Hill Country Club in Huntsville, she pointed to

numerous practices today that apparently derive from supernatural considerations, including mounting horseshoe prongs up above doorways, or eating black-eyed peas on New Year's Day.

Ms. Reeves noted that witchcraft trials were not unique to New England at the time, or even to the American colonies. Instead, they were a 17th century social phenomenon caused to various degrees by religious extremism, political change, human fallibility, and accompanying failure of due legal process. Many early modern people in Europe believed that Satan and other demonic forces were fully active in their lives. Those beliefs accompanied them to North America, and were fostered by many New England religious leaders, including the Reverend Cotton Mather. The Salem witchcraft trials also occurred at a time of societal stress, just after enactment of the 1691 English charter enlarging the Massachusetts Bay Colony to include the former Plymouth Colony.

Ms. Reeves explained that when an accuser chose to believe that a death, illness, or

injury had been caused by witchcraft, he or she complained to a local official, such as Magistrate Samuel Sewall. After initial investigation, the victims, most of whom were women, were tried in several Massachusetts town courts.

The most noted prosecutions occurred in Salem Town's Court of Oyer and Terminer, before Chief Magistrate William Stoughton. Mass hysteria resulted in the execution of some 20 people by hanging or pressed weights. About five other people died in prison.

In the years after the trials, family members and others worked diligently to show the innocence of the victims, and succeeded in gaining compensation for family survivors. Early in 1697, Samuel Sewall asked that his apology for his role in the trials be read aloud to the congregation in Boston's South Church. Ms. Reeves concluded her fascinating presentation to the enthusiastic applause of Society members.

Michel Marcoux

Upcoming Colony Meetings:

Gulf Coast – Will meet on Saturday, November 21, 2015, at Felix's Fish Camp Restaurant, Spanish Fort, 11 a.m. Jack Dwyer graciously has agreed to serve if elected as Lieutenant Governor (Rob Howell has had to resign due to health issues).

Minutes of the May 9, 2015, Gulf Coast meeting at Felix's Fish Camp indicate that 21 members attended. After Lieutenant Governor Howell's call to order and welcome, the Pledge of Allegiance, the Elder's Prayer, the Compact reading, introduction of guests, and roll call, the minutes of the October 25, 2014, meeting were approved. The Treasurer reported a positive balance of \$468.29. Members were asked to sign a letter to U.S. Representative Bradley Byrne to support minting a coin to commemorate the 400 year anniversary of the *Mayflower* voyage. The coin will be used as currency. Member Dr. Sydney Leak III gave a most interesting talk on U.S. President James A. Garfield, a Billington descendant. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned and lunch was served. Robert Howell, Acting Secretary.

Gulf Coast also will host the 2016 Spring State Society meeting.

Capital – Will meet on Saturday, February 6, 2016, at Wynlakes Country Club, 11:00 a.m. Speaker TBA. Alan Davis, Lieutenant Governor.

Tennessee Valley – Will meet on Saturday, December 5, 2015, at Gibson’s Barbecue on South Memorial Parkway, 11:30 a.m. We will meet with the Descendants of George Washington’s Army at Valley Forge. Our speaker, Kay Anderson, will discuss “Clothing from the Pilgrims to Valley Forge.” Deen Rice, Lieutenant Governor.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

From the Librarian: Carol Kitchens

If anyone has any photos or newspaper articles or anything of interest concerning members of the Alabama Mayflower Society, please send them to me to include in our Mayflower Scrapbook! Please include the event, the date, location, and names of people. Carolkitch@mac.com or my home address: 3874 County Road 852, Heflin, Alabama 36264.

From the Deputy Governor: Alan Davis

If anyone knows the whereabouts of the Charter and Seal, please let Alan know.

Moving?

Please let us know any new addresses, e-mail addresses (all), or telephone numbers to help ensure continuous communications with you at your new location.

Send us your e-mail address!

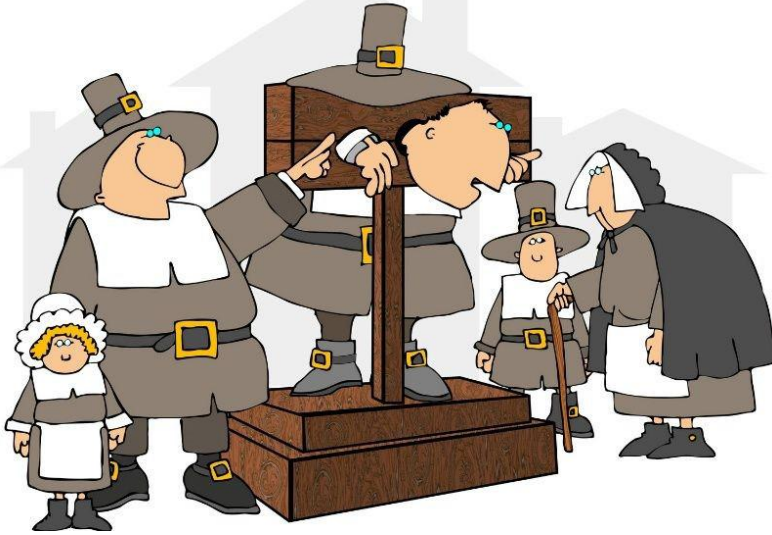
If you have e-mail, but you are receiving this newsletter by U.S. Mail, you have the opportunity to save the Alabama Mayflower Society substantial money. Provide your e-mail address to Secretary Nancy Logan, nclnurse@yahoo.com and Treasurer Mary Helen Mahan, mhm.smdal@charter.net. Many thanks!

Possible Birmingham Colony

The Alabama Mayflower Society now has three Colonies to promote the Society’s interests: Capital, Gulf Coast, and Tennessee Valley, serving the Montgomery, Mobile, and Huntsville regions, respectively. Society members who might favor applying for a fourth Colony for the Birmingham region can contact Michel Marcoux, inlandekal@aol.com, or Post Office Box 43948, Cahaba Heights, Alabama 35243-0948. Any member, whether or not resident in Alabama, can sign a petition for such a new Colony.

Crime and Punishment in Plymouth

There were five crimes punishable by death in Plymouth Colony. They were (1) treason or rebellion; (2) "willful" murder; (3) making a compact with Satan, including witchcraft; (4) arson of houses or ships; and (5) rape. Trial was always by a jury of 12 peers. When Indians were tried, the jury usually consisted of Christianized Indians to



avoid the appearance of bias. Serious crimes were usually investigated by a grand jury. The remaining crimes were generally punished with a fine, a public whipping, or sitting in the public stocks. The following presents a sample of criminal offenses and the associated punishments or fines, taken from pre-1650 court records of Plymouth:

Adultery

To be severely whipped on two separate occasions, one in public, and to wear the capital letters AD sewn on back of upper garment or sleeve.

Fornication

Unmarried couple who refuse to get married after the incident: whipping, fine of £10, and three or fewer days in prison. Unmarried couple who agree to get married: £10 fine, but no whipping. Couple already engaged to be married at time of incident: fine of 50 shillings.

Cursing God

Three hours (or fewer) in the public stocks.

Lying in public

Fine of 10 shillings. If can't pay, then two hours in stocks.

Stealing

Repay double the value of what was stolen, or be publicly whipped.

Getting drunk

Fined, value to be determined by the magistrates.

Gambling with dice or cards

Fine of 40 shillings.

Tearing down or burning someone's fence

Rebuild the fence, plus a 50 shilling fine for first offense, £5 fine for second offense.

Defacing a landmark

Fine, ranging from 20 shillings to £5, depending on severity.

Wearing visors or other "strange apparel"

Fine of 50 shillings.

Smoking tobacco in public, or near hay (soldiers exempted)

First offense, 12 pence. Second offence, 2 shillings.

Failing to attend church

10 shilling fine.

Working (laboring) on Sunday

10 shilling fine.

Traveling on Sunday

20 shilling fine.

Courtesy of the Pilgrim News, The newsletter of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Nebraska.

RESERVATION FORM



I will attend the Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Saturday, November 14, 2015, at 11:00 a.m., at “The Club”, Birmingham, Alabama (1 Robert S. Smith Drive, 35209: 205.323.5821)

Cost - only \$26.00 per person

Name _____

_____ Yes, I plan to attend

_____ # Guests I am bringing (Please include their names)

_____, _____, _____,

_____ **Check made out to SMDAL enclosed**

_____ **Pay at the door (you will be billed if you don't cancel by noon on Tuesday, November 10th)**

Return to be received by Tuesday, November 10, 2015 to:

Alan M. Davis

7340 Old Barn Road

Montgomery, Alabama 36117-3976

E-mail: amd7thcedar@charter.net Home: 334.270.8657 Cell: 334.207.4884

Menu: Chicken Scaloppini with Ham & Cheese - crispy breaded chicken with shaved ham and gruyere cheese, served with red-skinned potatoes, steamed broccoli and Dijon-grainy mustard cream sauce; tossed salad, pumpkin cheesecake custard/banana pudding, and *The Club's* wonderful orange rolls.

WE WILL SEE YOU IN BIRMINGHAM ON SATURDAY, November 14, 2015!!!
