



NUTMEG GRATINGS

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Connecticut

Founded in 1896

July 2023

www.CTMayflower.org

Volume 44, Number 2

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Hello, Mayflower Cousins.

I hope you are having a great summer. There has certainly been plenty of rain to keep the gardens and lawns green.

Our challenge coins to benefit the Mayflower Meetinghouse restoration are selling well. Remember that all the profits from the sale of these coins benefit this wonderful storehouse of Mayflower history. You can purchase your coin from our online store at www.CTMayflower.org.

We are still looking for a few volunteers to represent our society at this year's General Society of Mayflower Descendants Congress in Plymouth. If you want to attend, please email me at Gthomp5749@aol.com. Be sure to make your hotel reservations immediately as the hotels will book up fast.

If any of you plan to submit a supplemental application on your Mayflower Ancestors, consider doing it now. The cost of these applications is likely to increase after the General Society of Mayflower Descendants Congress in October.

Thank you everyone for coming to our luncheon meetings and buying raffle tickets. At our last meeting we sold over \$1,300 in tickets – that's a record! All raffle proceeds go directly to our scholarship fund which has disbursed tens of thousands of dollars to exceptional college students. We are

always looking for donations to add to this fund. Perhaps you have a memorial you would like to create for a deceased loved one. Naming opportunities are available for larger donations.



My term will expire in October 2024, and we will be offering a new slate of officers. If you are interested in becoming an officer, wish to serve on the Board of Assistants or want to be part of one of our many committees, there are several opportunities available. Please email me if you are interested.

Mark your calendar. The speaker at our annual meeting on October 14, 2023, at Woodwinds in Branford, CT will be Dr. David Naumec, Assistant Professor of History at Central Connecticut State University. David is an engaging and informative speaker with extensive experience on early Connecticut battlefields. You won't want to miss this presentation.

If this is your first time coming to a meeting, please tap me on the shoulder and introduce yourself, I would love to meet you.

Sincerely,
Gregory Evan Thompson, Governor



Nutmeg Gratings is published three times per year to inform the membership of items of interest and to educate members and the general public about the Mayflower Society. Historical and genealogical material with supporting bibliographies is also presented. The fact that an article appears in *Nutmeg Gratings* does not in any way reflect that newsletter contributors, volunteers, or the Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendants guarantees the historical accuracy of any information contained herein.

IN THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| CT Mayflower Society Board of Assistants and Committees | 2 |
| New Members, In Remembrance, Order Your Name Tag | 3 |
| 2023 Scholarship Program and Raffle | 4 |
| Meet our 2023 Scholarship Winners | 5 |
| Salem Witchcraft Trials, the Case of Mary (Ayer) Parker | 6-7 |
| Religious Toleration in Plymouth Colony | 8-9 |
| Good Fences make Good Neighbors | 10 |
| CT Mayflower Society April 22, 2023 Luncheon Meeting Minutes | 11 |

Deadlines for submissions to the October 2023 and April 2024 newsletters: August 28, 2023 and March 1, 2024, respectively.

OFFICERS & BOARD OF ASSISTANTS 2021-2024

Governor

Gregory E. Thompson gthomp5749@aol.com

Deputy Governor

Kerry Comisky kakjcomisky@att.net

Recording Secretary

Katherine Simmons kmsartwrk@cox.net

Corresponding Secretary

Nancy Merwin nancyamerwin284@gmail.com

Treasurer

David Grant dlgrant3639@gmail.com

Historian

Marjorie Hurtuk mhurtuk@aol.com

Elder

Sandra Bullock sndeeo@yahoo.com

Captain

William J. Lane lanewjg@comcast.net

Archivist

Kenneth Roach kingsman18@aol.com

Assistants (In alphabetical order)

Mary Brown mbrown06239@gmail.com

Sara Champion sarachampionct@comcast.net

Dayna Drake dldrake@cox.net

Judi Thompson Paige jphearts67@gmail.com

Joan Prentice jowp32@hotmail.com

Louise Wagner mlwagner1@optonline.net

GENERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

Deputy Governor General for CT

Mary Brown mbrown06239@gmail.com

Assistant General for CT

Gregory E. Thompson gthomp5749@aol.com

General Society Assisnat Governor General

Donald Studley dtstudley@snet.net

General Society Historian General

Marjorie Hurtuk mhurtuk@aol.com

COMMITTEES

Assistant Treasurer

Joan Prentice jowp32@hotmail.com

By-Laws

Nancy Merwin nancyamerwin284@gmail.com

Sara Champion sarachampionct@comcast.net

Kelly Davis kkates.davis@gmail.com

Dayna Drake dldrake@cox.net

Computer Scanning

Greg Thompson gthomp5749@aol.com

Education

Mary Brown mbrown06239@gmail.com

David Grant dlgrant3639@gmail.com

Christopher Nichols cpnichols69@att.net

Kenneth Roach kingsman18@aol.com

Louise Wagner mlwagner1@optonline.net

Finance Committee

David Grant dlgrant3639@gmail.com

Joan Prentice jowp32@hotmail.com

Donald Studley dtstudley@snet.net

Hospitality

William J. Lane lanewjg@comcast.net

Insignia

Louise Wagner mlwagner1@optonline.net

Junior Enrollment

Judi Thompson Paige jphearts67@gmail.com

Membership

Joan Prentice, Dues, Updates jowp32@hotmail.com

Marjorie Hurtuk, Applications mhurtuk@aol.com

Greg Thompson, Information gthomp5749@aol.com

Ann Henninger

Nominations

Joan Prentice jowp32@hotmail.com

William J. Lane lanewjg@comcast.net

Nutmeg Gratings Newsletter

Katherine Simmons kmsartwrk@cox.net

Online Store

Kerry Comisky kakjcomisky@att.net

Publicity

Gregory E. Thompson gthomp5749@aol.com

Vacancy

Programs

Greg Thompson gthomp5749@aol.com

Reservations

Sandra Bullock sndeeo@yahoo.com

Scholarship

Michael Pollock mikepollock8039@comcast.net

Mary Brown mbrown06239@gmail.com

Julia Parker Post jppart@sbcglobal.net

Social Media

Carol Wilde-Tamme cwtamme@gmail.com

Greg Thompson, Information gthomp5749@aol.com

Welcome New Members and Transfers Into the CT Mayflower Society!

PRISCILLA ALDEN

Judith A. Rickert, Danbury CT

WILLIAM BREWSTER

John L. Pollock, Northford CT

JAMES CHILTON

Nancy W. Wofson, Bridgewater MA

EDWARD DOTY

Jameson P. Gerson, Greenwich CT
Susan S. Gerson, Greenwich CT
Douglas G. Frank, Norwich CT
Sophia D. Radman, New Canaan CT

EDWARD FULLER

Mary L. Erwin, Houston TX

JOHN HOWLAND

Alexis A. R. Delmore, Warren CT
Ryan J. Delmore, Warren CT

GEORGE SOULE

Donna Brunstad, North Branford CT
Maria Calabrese, Guilford CT
Wendy Durham, Torrington CT

PRISCILLA MULLINS

Alan R. Anderson, Danbury CT

DEGORY PRIEST

Gail Jackson, Stratford CT

THOMAS ROGERS

Emily I. Ziac, Cos Cob CT

MYLES STANDISH

Michael J. Vandermaelen, Madison CT

RICHARD WARREN

Elizabeth Broadbridge, Plantsville CT
Laura E. Morton, Somers CT
Michael P. Keigher, Greenwich CT

In Remembrance of CT Mayflower Society Members Who Have Recently Passed

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted. Matthew 5:4

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Judith M. Belver, d. 10/2/22, age 86 | Barbara A. C. Hoffman, d. 10/5/22, age 92 | Phyllis P. Moody, d. 12/23/22, age 94 |
| Pamela J. Bobinski, d. 3/4/23, age 71 | Joan F. Jenks, d. 5/18/23, age 87 | Barbara A. Moore, d. 4/22/23, age 92 |
| Robert C. Cushman Sr., d. 5/10/23, age 88 | Grady E. Jensen, d. 1/31/23, age 90 | Maureen H. Sheehan, d. 5/29/23, age 95 |
| Robert L. Fletcher, d. 5/5/21, age 89 | Richard K. Jewett, d. 8/31/22, age 96 | Elizabeth T. Wardwell, d. 12/31/20, age 97 |
| | Carolyn L. S. Khoury, d. 1/20/19, age 75 | |

ENROLL YOUR YOUNG FAMILY MEMBERS AS JUNIOR AFFILIATE MEMBERS.

We believe that families become more engaged in their Mayflower heritage when children are included. A Mayflower Society member may sponsor any person under 18 years of age for Junior Affiliate Membership. The Junior Applicant must be a blood relative of a current or past member of the Mayflower Society. At age 18, the Junior Affiliate may apply for adult membership in the Society via the usual application process.

Download Junior Affiliate Enrollment Form at http://www.ctmayflower.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/2021_JrAffForm.pdf

Contact Junior Affiliate Chair Judi Paige at jphearts67@gmail.com if you have further questions.

Connecticut Mayflower Society Name Tag Order Form - Available for \$20 each.

NAME ON PIN: _____

Select: Pin Back Magnet Back

NAME ON PIN: _____

Select: Pin Back Magnet Back

NAME ON PIN: _____

Select: Pin Back Magnet Back

Ordered by:

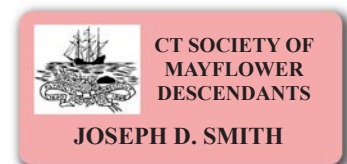
No. Badges _____ X \$20 each = _____ Total enclosed.

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____



Make check payable to CT Mayflower Society.

Mail payment with order form to: Gregory Thompson, 17 David Drive, East Haven, CT 06512

Two ways for you to support the Scholarship Program

You can keep our scholarship program growing and vibrant. Become a patron with an outright donation or donate an item to be raffled off at an upcoming luncheon meeting. We hope you will do both.

DONATE AND BECOME A PATRON

In honor of the of 1620 voyage and the continued celebration of our heritage, join in the commemoration with a special commitment to the Connecticut Mayflower Scholarship Program. We must maintain and increase our endowed funds so that we can continue to assist more students.

While our ancestors were passengers and not crew, we must be thankful to Master Jones and his men for the safe journey over hazardous seas and the support rendered by them to our ancestors during the first winter. The bars on our Connecticut Scholarship Patron pin indicate ranks of the crew of the Mayflower. Begin with the Boatswain bar, earn the Pilot bar, then the Master's Mate bar and finally the Master bar to complete your roster.



Become a Patron for an initial donation of \$500 and an annual donation of \$100 and receive our newly designed lapel pin and bars to show your dedication to assisting our youth in pursuing higher education. Patron options include the initial donation of \$500 which can be made in installments during the first year. You will receive your pin when you complete your initial donation. The \$100 annual donations can be made in one lump sum and receive all your bars at one time. If you care to donate more you may with our sincerest thank you.

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Connecticut is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible to the extent the IRS will allow.

Please accept my donation of: \$500 \$800 \$100 Other: _____

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

STREET: _____ EMAIL: _____

CITY: _____ STATE : _____ ZIP: _____

Mail this form and your check, payable to CT Mayflower Society, to David L. Grant, 4 Holly Farm Ln, Simsbury, CT 06070. Write CT Mayflower Scholarship Fund in the memo line of your check.

SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND – DONATE AN ITEM TO OUR SEMI-ANNUAL RAFFLES

These raffle donations leverage hundreds of dollars as luncheon meeting attendees purchase tickets in the hope of winning one – or more – of the raffle items. Look at that table of goodies from a recent meeting. Let's keep it going!

What to donate? New or well-cared for books; knitted, quilted, or needlework items; candles; note cards; seasonal plants; seed and/or bulb packets; table decorations - the options are really endless. Please be sure that donated items are in new or well cared for and clean condition. Consummable items like candy, maple syrup, jams, etc. must be sealed and unopened.

Bring raffle items to the next membership meeting on October 14, 2023. If you have further questions about what and how to donate to the raffle, contact Scholarship Chair Mike Pollock at mikepollock8039@comcast.net.



Meet our 2023 Scholarship Winners

LILY TALON is a graduate of Southington High School and the Agriculture Science Program. This program consists of 4 years of agricultural elective classes and 600 hours of study outside the classroom. Lily's love for animals has guided her direction and participation. She has worked for 2 years caring for dogs and cats while completing a 5 credit college course in Veterinary Technician studies and a Horticulture class at the University of Connecticut. She has been the recipient of multiple Future Farmers of America Awards.

Active in the Girl Scouts since 1st grade, Lily has earned the Bronze and Silver Star Awards and is currently working on her Gold Star Award. Her Gold Star Award is a project to provide boxes of flies for fly fishing for women attending a Casting for Recovery Retreat. This is a program to support women who are living with breast cancer and want to learn how to fly fish.

Lily will attend The State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill where she will major in Animal Sciences Bachelor of Technology with a minor in Agricultural Teaching. Lily looks forward to her college years, those early 4 a.m. wake up calls for barn duty to check in on the horses, cows, sheep, goats, and pigs, and to attending SUNY-Cobleskill, a highly ranked agricultural college.

WILLIAM ALDEN SLATER will attend Wake Forest University in the fall and plans to focus on a variety of studies in entrepreneurship, theater, and Japanese. William has been a strong student throughout high school maintaining a 3.83 grade point average. Alongside his academic success, he has maintained a strong involvement in the performing arts.

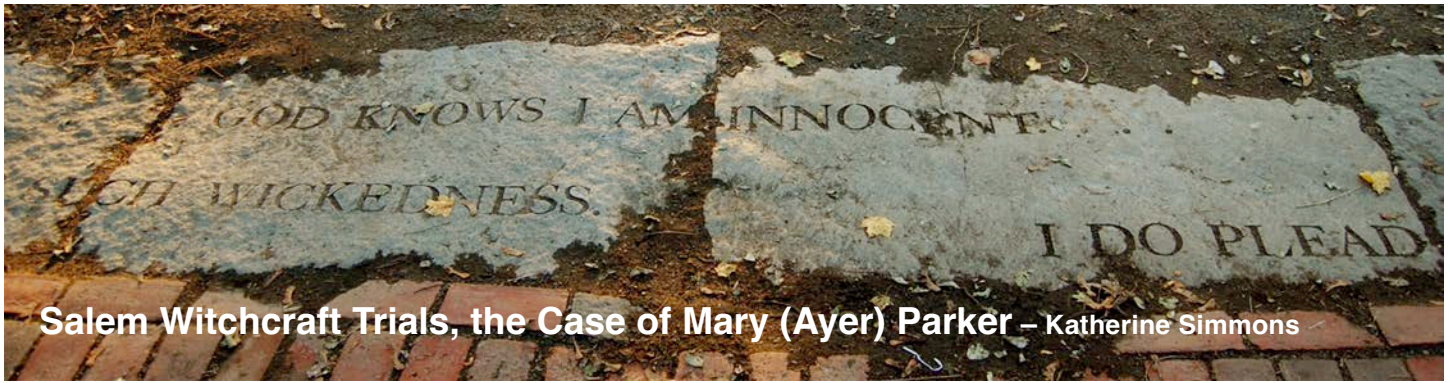
William has played the cello for a decade and has performed in various roles in plays and musicals. Some of those productions include *Mamma Mia*, *Radium Girls*, and *Urinetown*. William loves to be a part of the entertainment business and give people a laugh or share a moving story. He gave two "Tiger Talks" to his high school audience; the first was about the language of tennis directly correlating to the language of life and the second was about what love really is.

William is also an athlete. He played tennis for 14 years, at summer camps, clubs and official tournaments, and on his school team where he was #1 singles for each year. As of the summer of 2022, he put down his racket to focus on body-buildin and building a beneficial gym community around himself. The future holds the possibility of a racing career, but we will see how that plays out.

William is pleased to be carrying on the family tradition as a future member of the Mayflower Society (ancestors John Alden and Stephen Hopkins). He hopes to continue his family legacy at Wake Forest where his grandfather also attended. In February, he was approved as a successor member to his cousin, William Carrell, in the New York Society of the Cincinnati.



CALL FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: Share your knowledge and stories with fellow members through a newsletter article of your own: your genealogical journey in search of Mayflower and colonial ancestors, a book review, whatever. If you don't feel comfortable writing a piece yourself, send your suggestions to: Kathy Simmons, Newsletter Editor at kmsartwrk@cox.net and we'll take it from there.



Salem Witchcraft Trials, the Case of Mary (Ayer) Parker – Katherine Simmons

The witch trials at Salem and elsewhere in colonial New England were a tragedy owing to superstition, ignorance, and perhaps greed. This is a story from my ancestry of one such witch trial.

Gallows Hill near Salem Village, Massachusetts was the place for hanging, the standard punishment for those convicted of witchcraft. Between June and September of 1692, nineteen men and women were convicted of witchcraft, carted to Gallows Hill, and hanged. One man of over eighty years was pressed to death under heavy stones for refusing to submit to a trial on witchcraft charges.

A Salem witch trial started with a citizen's complaint of witchcraft against an individual or multiple individuals. The defendant was brought before magistrates for preliminary hearings and if the magistrates felt that there was sufficient evidence for a trial, the accused was jailed pending a hearing before a grand jury. If the grand jury handed down a "true bill" of misbehavior, a trial by jury would follow.

Following 17th-century English precedents, the accused was not represented by a lawyer but could question accusers and witnesses. Most defendants were not equipped to defend themselves against a hanging court and hysterical witnesses – more than forty persons confessed to being witches. Ironically, those who confessed to witchcraft were not convicted.

Accusations and convictions of witchcraft were the result of ignorance and superstition further exacerbated by poor investigative and evidentiary procedures. In such a climate, accusations of witchcraft could prove to be a convenient, albeit extreme, means to settle old grievances or perceived personal slights.

But there was also a more pernicious motivation to accuse others of witchcraft. The Massachusetts Bay Colony had a law on the books which provided attainder for "conjuration, witchcraft, and dealing with evil and wicked spirits," which meant the loss of civil, inheritance, and property rights of

those accused. Such a motivation could prove enticing to not only the accusers but those standing in judgement of the defendant.

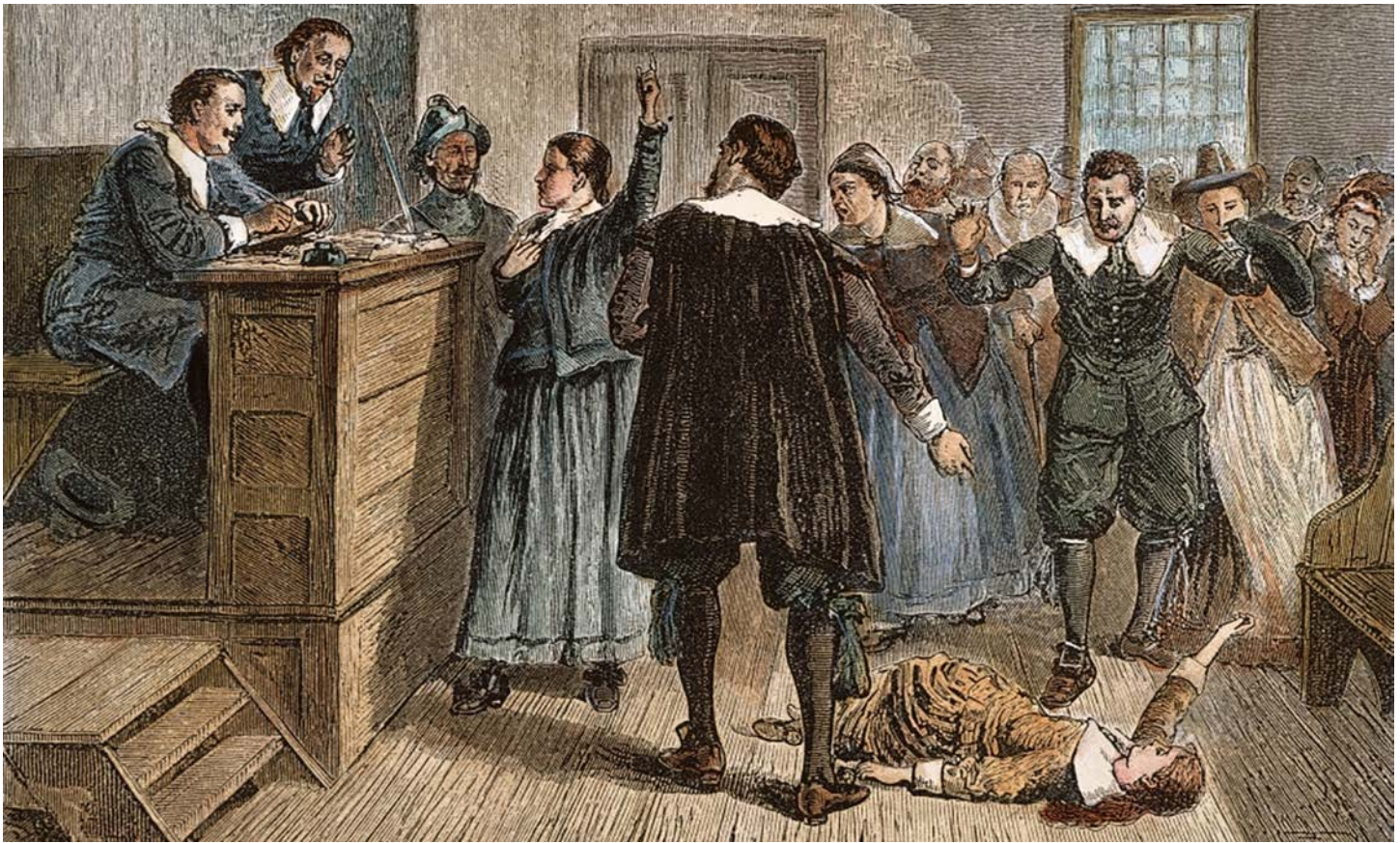
Mary Ayer, of Andover, Massachusetts, was born about 1635, the sixth of nine children born to John and Hannah Ayer. In 1653, Mary married Nathan Parker as his second wife. Nathan was one of the original proprietors of Andover and one of the original ten members of the First Church. When Nathan died in 1685, he was a prosperous man who left his wife and children a generous estate valued at 463 pounds and 4 shillings, \$113,986 in today's dollars.

Mary (Ayer) Parker was a 55-year-old widow in 1692 when she was accused of witchcraft. Mary refused to confess during the witchcraft trials saying, "I know nothing of it, there is another woman of the same name in Andover." And, there was another Mary Parker. Mary was referring to her sister-in-law, Mary Parker, the senile widow of Joseph Parker who had a documented history of mental instability.

In fact, there were not one but three other Mary Parkers in Andover at the time. The reputation of anyone named "Mary Parker" was further tarnished by the lengthy criminal history of a fourth Mary Parker from Salem. Throughout the 1670s, this fourth Mary Parker appeared in Essex County Court several times for fornication, child abuse, and for having a child out of wedlock. She was a scandalous figure and undoubtedly contributed to negative associations with the name Mary Parker.

The accused Mary Parker was stunned by the allegations and asked if it was a case of mistaken identity. No, there was no mistake, said witness Mary Warren from Salem, John Proctor's servant. Warren had a fit during Parker's examination,

Image, this page: www.HalvorsonDesign.com/Cultural-Historical. Salem Witch Trials Memorial, Salem MA. Commemorates 20 innocent people who were put to death in Salem in 1692. Halvorson Design joined Jim Cutler and Maggie Smith, whose concept for the memorial won an international competition. Around a simple grass space, 20 granite slabs extend from a dry-laid wall; on each, the name of a victim and the date and manner of his or her execution.



and came forward with a pin stuck in her hand and a bloody mouth, saying it was Mary Parker who was to blame.

Was it a case mistaken of identity? Or, perhaps, there was an earlier score to settle. In 1658, prominent Andover resident Thomas Chandler agreed to take on Job Tyler's son, Hopestill, as an apprentice and the legal contract was held for safekeeping by Nathan Parker. Four years later, Job tried to break the contract and arranged for his eldest son Moses to steal the document from the Parker home when Nathan and Mary were away. In the ensuing trial, Nathan testified against Job and Moses. The Tylers lost the suit. Fast forward thirty four years, Martha Sprague, step-daughter of Moses Tyler, was the first to accuse widow Mary Parker of witchcraft.

One of Mary's accusers was William Barker Jr. In August of 1692, Barker confessed that he "a Covenant with the Devil did make, and did Sign the Devil's Book with Blood, and gave himself Soule & body to the Devil" and at the same time, named "Goody" Parker as a witch. "Goody" was an abbrevi-

ated form of "Goodwife" in the pilgrim society, the female equivalent of the male title "Goodman."

It was common in the Salem, Essex County witch-hunts for someone like Barker to confess to the charges of witchcraft while accusing others of witchcraft, and therefore be spared death. In his confession, Barker did not specify which Goody Parker he meant. The magistrates of the court issued a warrant for the arrest of Mary Parker without making sure they had the woman accused by Barker, assuming Barker even knew which Mary Parker he intended to incriminate.

Mary Ayer Parker was convicted on little evidence and her treatment was indicative of the chaos and the shameless slaughter associated with the Salem trials. In less than one month, Mary was arrested, examined, found guilty, and executed. On September 22, 1692, she was hanged on Gallows hill along with five other women and two men: Martha Corey, Margaret Scott, Mary Easty, Alice Parker, Ann Pudeator, Wilmott Redd, and Samuel Wardwell.

Image, this page: William A. Crafts, *Pioneers in the settlement of America: from Florida in 1510 to California in 1849*. edition, Boston: Published by Samuel Walker and Company. Witchcraft at Salem Village. Engraving. The "afflicted" central figure in this 1876 illustration of the courtroom is usually identified as [Mary Walcott](#), Mary being an active accuser during the Salem witch trials.

Sources: *The Essex Antiquarian*, Volume IV:145. *Massachusetts, Wills and Probate Records, 1635-1991*, Will of John Ayer, Ancestry.com. *Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850*, Andover, Volume1:291-294, Ancestry.com. Clarence Almon Torrey, *New England Marriages Prior to 1700*, Volume 2:1140.

[Witch Hunting in Salem: The Case of William Barker.](#) [Salem Witch Museum](#)



Religious "Toleration" in Plymouth Colony – Randall Russell

It seems ironic that the same people who went into a decade-long exile in Holland in search of religious liberty and undertook an unimaginably perilous journey into the unknown to achieve it, could not bring themselves to afford that benefit to those that initially followed. While a good deal has been written about the religious persecutions conducted by our Puritan neighbors in Massachusetts Bay, the truth is, that for the most part, our Pilgrim cousins did not welcome those who would not to submit to their vision of a Separatist church.

Long before the arrival of Quakers, Baptists, and other denominations, minor doctrinal cracks began to appear within the Plymouth Church. The Rev. Charles Chauncey had differences of opinion with his associate minister, John Reyner, about how baptisms should be conducted. Chauncey felt that baptismal candidates should be fully immersed in water while Reyner preferred sprinkling. Due to the climate in Massachusetts sprinkling seemed a bit more practical. Eventually Chauncey was gently encouraged to move on.

Problems seem to have coincided with the establishment of new townships expanding in Plymouth County*. Towns were small in the early days of the colony. In large part this was to ensure that people lived within walking distance of their church given that church attendance was required on the Sabbath. The farther away from Plymouth a town was, the harder it was for the Governor and his advisors to exert control over local affairs. William Bradford reportedly lamented the population increase and dispersal of what had formerly been a small community and church. People that had been acquainted on a first name and familial basis, barely knew their neighbors in surrounding Plymouth Colony towns.

* See results of our third generations survey, [June 2017 issue, Nutmeg Gratings, page 15.](#)

A case in point involves Scituate, the town furthest from Plymouth and closest to the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Because of Scituate's geographical placement, it was a fertile place for the cross pollination of controversial opposing ideas, both political and religious. Considerable bickering ensued, some fueled by personal antipathy and some over doctrinal differences. When most of the members of the local church and their minister left, seeking greener pastures in Mattacheese (now Barnstable), a major void was created. Into that void stepped the aforementioned Rev. Charles Chauncey. When Rev. Chauncey arrived in Scituate, only about half of the remaining church members were in favor of his appointment as minister.

Those opposing Chauncey in Scituate were led by William Vassall, a pronounced liberal. This group brought in a minister from Duxbury, William Witherell, to be their pastor, forming the "Second Church of Scituate", in actuality the third church.

Eugene Aubrey Stanton tells us about a 1645 incident completely unmentioned in colony records but outlined in a letter from Edward Winslow to Governor Winthrop of the Bay Colony. It seems that William Vassall introduced a petition to the Plymouth General Court for full religious toleration of all "well-behaving men." The Liberal-Conservative split in the Plymouth Court on this issue was indicative of the internal cracks developing in the old colony. Many town deputies plus assistants John Browne, Edmond Freeman, Timothy Hatherly, and Myles Standish, were in favor of the Vassall petition. Governor Bradford, Thomas Prentice, and Edward Winslow were adamantly opposed. In his letters Winslow often complained to Governor Winthrop in Boston about liberal tendencies arising in both colonies.

It is not generally known that Roger Williams originally came to Plymouth. People liked his personality and admired

his goodness. He occasionally preached but was more of a farmer than a minister. He began to feel that the Plymouth church was lapsing back toward Anglicanism, so he left for Salem. Bradford mentions him leaving, “abruptly” in 1633. His ideas about living a holy life eventually got him in trouble at Salem, where he attempted to radicalize an Anglican congregation. After defying repeated warnings, he had to be spirited away in the midst of snowstorm for his own safety. As we now know, he made good his escape and settled at Providence Plantation in Rhode Island.

Quakers begin to appear by around the mid-1650s. They were brutalized in Boston, four men and women being hanged on the common between 1659-1661. Many more were jailed, maimed, and beaten.

James Deetz tells us that Plymouth was more tolerant of Quakers than their neighbors in Boston. In many ways, however, it seems that our Pilgrims followed the lead of their Puritan neighbors in their attitude toward the Quakers. One Quaker sympathizer noted that the, “Plymouth saddle is on the Bay horse.” In 1660, Isaac Robinson, son of the late Pastor John Robinson, was disenfranchised for advocating a policy of moderation toward the Quakers. Things seemed to have reached the height of irony. Later, in the mid 1670s, Quakers and Baptists that had fled to Aquidneck Island in Rhode Island tried to negotiate with the Wampanoags in an earnest attempt to avoid King Philip’s War. Philip was reportedly receptive to a peaceful resolution but other events had progressed too far to forestall hostilities.

Massachusetts and Connecticut were effectively theocracies under the concept of Establishmentarianism. The New England governments were extensions of their churches and often financially supported them. Loyalty to church and state were one and the same.

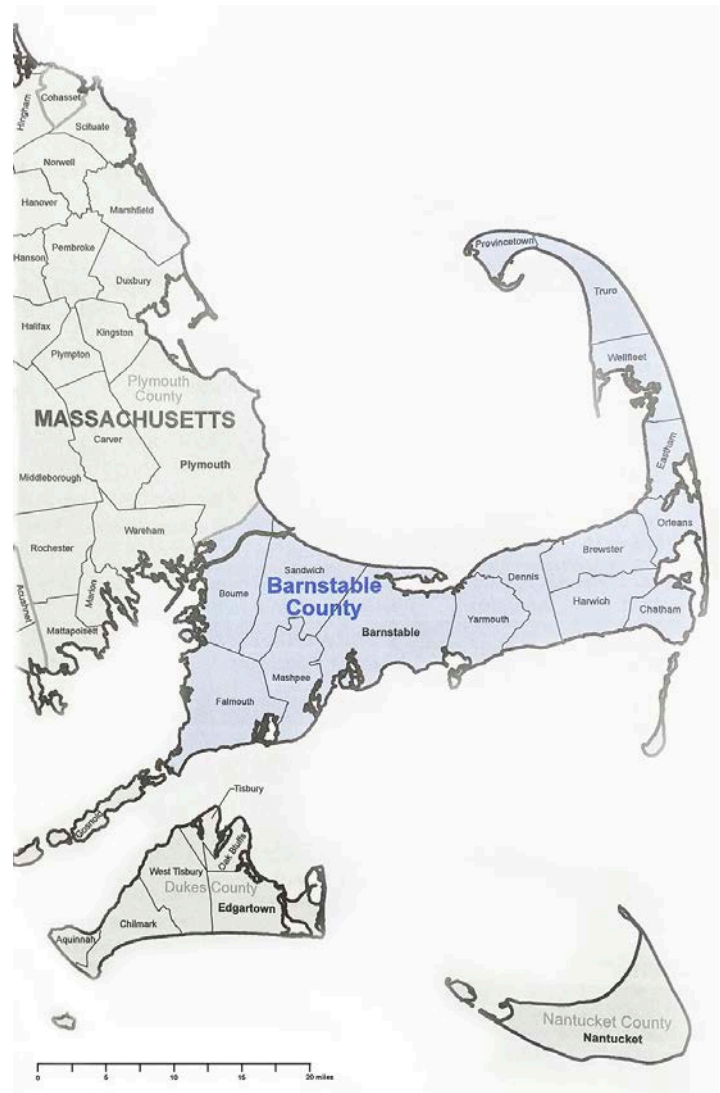
The Quakers were a stubborn lot, willing to risk life and limb for their beliefs. They had established safe havens in Rhode Island but continued venturing into Massachusetts. As a variety of diverse immigrant groups arrived, it seems as though the denizens of Boston lost interest in persecuting Quakers. By around 1675, Quakers openly lived and worshipped in the Bay Colony. Sectarianism had begun to vie with old religious ideas. It appears that developing prosperity may have started taking precedence over doctrinal differences.

The great religious awakening of the 1730s and 1740s brought more diversity to America. Ideas proliferated and a variety of sects and churches began to appear all over New England.

In 1787, Article 6 of the Constitution forbade the requirement that anyone would have to declare a test oath as a con-

dition for national office. The First Amendment, ratified in 1791, prohibited the establishment of a national church but didn’t eliminate established churches where they still existed, mainly in New England.

New Hampshire remained a theocracy until 1817 and Connecticut stayed so until 1818. Ironically, the home of the American Revolution, Massachusetts, didn’t abandon state-supported Congregationalism until 1833.



Present day map of Plymouth and surrounding towns.

SOURCES: James Deetz and Patricia Scott Deetz, *The Times Of Their Lives, Life, Love, Death, in Plymouth Colony*, Anchor Books, 2000.

Eugene Aubrey Stanton, *Plymouth Colony, It’s History and People 1620-1691*, Ancestry Publishing 1986.

The Constitution of The United States of America.

MAP: Michael J. Leclerc, *Genealogist’s Handbook for New England Research, 5th edition*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2012.



Good Fences make Good Neighbors – Katherine Simmons

Robert Frost said that, “Good fences make good neighbours.” Livestock was ubiquitous in colonial America and towns developed several strategies for dealing with the multitude of furred and feathered livestock, cows, pigs, sheep, geese, etc.

Colonial towns established fencing ordinances but the truth was that many towns set aside a ‘commons,’ pastureland available for use by residents of the community. To keep track of whose cow was whose, Connecticut enacted a branding law in 1644. The act called for all owners of livestock to ear-mark or brand their cattle, sheep, and pigs that were over 6 months of age and to register their marks with the town. Livestock owners who broke the law would be fined, with half allocated to the complainer and the other half to the town treasury.

All fencing was overseen by the local fence viewers. As the name implies, the fence viewer was appointed by the town council to enforce local fencing ordinances. He could compel a property owner to repair a fence in poor condition, or make reparations for damage caused by stray livestock.

The General Statutes of Massachusetts still empower the mayor of each city, subject to confirmation by the city council, and the selectmen of each town to appoint two or more fence viewers, to hold office for one year and until their successors are qualified.

If an animal strayed from the commons or from fenced enclosures or was found wreaking havoc on private property, it could wind up in the pokey. Early animal pounds were constructed of wood fencing that often had to be rebuilt.

Around 1740, stone-walled pounds became the favored building material, usually square or round, open at the top, with a gap secured by a gate. These stone-walled pounds, usually consisting of fieldstone or of rough-cut granite, were built as a temporary holding place for any livestock that escaped from their owners. To reclaim the pig or cow in question, the owner

would have to pay compensation for whatever damage the animal had done to neighbors’ gardens or property.

The pounds were supervised by a pound master and towns set bail for wayward livestock. According to Elizabeth Banks MacRury’s book *Town Pounds of New England*, one town set



Remains of the Sherborn MA Town Pound built in 1770.

the bail for these animals: a horse, mule, ass, cow, or pig at 12 cents and 5 mills (a mill was a thousandth of a dollar); for a sheep, it was 1 cent and 4 mills; for a goose, 8 cents.

Unclaimed animals could be sold at auction after three days, one day for geese. Stealing an animal from the pound incurred a fine of \$7.

Boundaries in colonial America were serious business!

Sources: www.AtlasObscura.com, *New England is Riddled with these Stone Enclosures*, Johnna Kaplan, 5 Sep 2019.

www.AtlasofNewEngland.wordpress.com, *Town Pounds*, Peter Chipman, 21 Apr 2012.

www.CTHistory.org, *Branding Law Enacted*, 5 Feb 2019.

www.MALegislature.gov, *193 General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*, Part 1, Title VII, Chapter 49, Section 1.

CONNECTICUT MAYFLOWER SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 2023, The Woodwinds, 29 School Ground Road, Branford CT 06405

Call to Order, Invocation and Presentation of Colors: Governor Gregory Thompson called the meeting to order at 11:41 a.m. noting the large turnout of 113 people for today's meeting. Elder Sandra Bullock delivered the invocation. Captain William Lane presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions: Governor Thompson introduced the Connecticut Mayflower Society Board of Assistants and our program speaker Vincent Pitts.

Necrology and Memorial Prayer: Elder Sandra Bullock read the necrology and delivered a memorial prayer.

Reading of the Mayflower Compact and Roll Call of the Ancestors: David Grant read the Mayflower Compact and led the Roll Call of the Ancestors. William Brewster and his family had 26 descendants present. The tally of descendants (present at the meeting) of other Mayflower passengers and their families included John Howland (20), Stephen Hopkins (15), Francis Cooke (15), William Bradford (14), Richard Warren (14), John Alden (13), John Tilley (13), George Soule (11), William Mullins (10), James Chilton (8), Edward Doty (7), John Billington (6), Francis Eaton (5), Edward Fuller (5), Myles Standish (5), Isaac Allerton (4), Thomas Rogers (4), Henry Samson (4), Samuel Fuller (3), William White (2), Degory Priest (1).

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting on October 29, 2022: The minutes of the October Meeting were approved following a motion by William Lane and seconded by Midge Hurtuk.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer David Grant reported that we are in a good financial position and able to meet our obligations. The Wells Fargo Operating Account stands at \$48,484. He further reported that the William Murray Fund, Life Membership Fund and Scholarship Fund stand at \$3,098, \$241,777, and \$277,027, respectively.

Historian's Report: Historian Midge Hurtuk read the names of 30 new members and 7 members transferred in from other chapters. On a motion made by Kerry Comisky and seconded by Sandra Bullock, the members report was accepted. New members and transfers in, present at the meeting, were recognized by the membership.

Connecticut Governor's Appreciation Awards: Governor Gregory Thompson presented awards to David Grant for his long service handling the finances and budget of CT Mayflower Society; to Joan Prentice for her expert handling of the membership rolls and dues collection; and to Kathy Simmons for her informative newsletter and complete meeting minutes. Thompson further recognized a family representing four generations of John Howland descendants present at the meeting and noted milestone anniversaries of various Society members.

Meeting Recess: Governor Thompson recessed the meeting for lunch from 12:35 to 1:43 pm for lunch.

Raffle: Governor Thompson thanked donors and organizers of the raffle. The raffle raised a record \$1,270 in support of the Scholarship Fund.

Scholarship Awards: Outgoing Scholarship Chair Mary Brown and Incoming Scholarship Chair Michael Pollock made the presentation to our 2023 Scholarship Award winners, Lily Talon and William Slater. Ms. Brown proudly announced that as of this year, we will make scholarship awards of \$5,000 to each recipient.

Program, "Our Marquis", LaFayette and America, a mutual admiration society:" Governor Thompson introduced Vincent Pitts who gave an engaging presentation on the life of Marquis de LaFayette, a French aristocrat who served as an officer in the American Revolutionary War and formed a life-long affection for and relationship with America's founders and our new nation founded on the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. He is also recognized for the leadership and democratic values he championed as his home country of France struggled to adopt a representative form of government. We are thankful to Mr. Pitts who made a beautiful presentation and generously donated his honorarium for today's program to the CT Mayflower Society Scholarship Fund.

Retirement of the Colors, Benediction and Adjournment: Captain William Lane retired the colors and Elder Sandra Bullock provided the benediction. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

**Mark your calendars: Annual Membership Luncheon Meeting will be held on
Saturday, October 14, 2023 at the Woodwinds in Branford beginning at 11:15 a.m.**

Details on the scheduled speaker and luncheon reservations will be available in the next newsletter.



The Society of Mayflower Descendants
in the State of Connecticut
32 Nichols Lane
Waterford, CT 06385

Presorted
First Class
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit #69
Deep River, CT



“Thus out of small beginnings greater things have been produced by His hand...”
– William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation*