



# Nutmeg Gratings

April 2018

Volume 39, Number 1

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

What a wonderful time to be a Mayflower descendant! We are nearing the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mayflower voyage and the celebration of our existence. We celebrate our ancestors' strength of commitment to establish the Plimoth Colony. Unswerving family involvement, creation of a civil body politic, dedication to religious beliefs, desire to secure property, and respect for the Massasoit/Brewster fifty year peace treaty all provoke pride in our Pilgrim ancestors. Knowing how they survived hardships, while founding the first permanent settlement in America. It gives us a vision of the inner strength resources that are our genetic inheritance. What a magnificent legacy!

How can we best celebrate 2020? Donna Mangiafico has created a spectacular calendar to display and remind us of our heritage. I encourage each of you to purchase several of these as gifts to family, friends, classrooms, libraries, historical societies, offices and places of business which will bring public awareness. Our license plate holders, lapel pins and other 2020 merchandise are generating comments and questions from the general public. Keep the trend growing. Visit our online store at [ctmayflower.org](http://ctmayflower.org).

Do you have ideas of events that you would like to see held during 2020? Send us your ideas. [Mbrown06239@gmail.com](mailto:Mbrown06239@gmail.com)

The overnight adventure at Plimoth Plantation is scheduled for Aug. 4, 2018. The cost is \$120 per person for ten people. Please make your check out to CT Society of Mayflower Descendants and mail to Mary Brown, 218 Green Hollow Rd., Danielson, CT 06239. The ten slots will be filled on a first come first served basis. This unique experience will have a tremendous impact on your understanding of the Pilgrim experience.

The Scholarship Fund Patron drive is growing. You may purchase your Patron Pin for \$500 with each bar \$100. Help us to build a third year into our renewable scholarship.

Education is a priceless commodity to maintain a strong society. Support this goal to reach by 2020.

I have received some of the Douglas Fir planking that was removed from Mayflower II. My carving friends are creating hearts from this wood which was at the heart of the Mayflower II. These limited edition



hearts come with a certificate of authenticity. You can contact Plimoth Plantation if you are interested. They are limited and are going fast.

Those people who love to shop on line could help us by using Amazon Smile. It is the same Amazon, but donates .05% of your purchase to CT Mayflower when you designate that as your choice. This is an easy, painless way to contribute to our scholarships.

Do you have a story to tell about your ancestral search? Are you interested in a particular aspect of your history? An article about this would be of interest to our newsletter readers. Please submit your article to [nutmegarchive01@yahoo.com](mailto:nutmegarchive01@yahoo.com). We have an outstanding newsletter – help us to continue to produce it at the high standards that have been set by Randy and Kerry.

A very important meeting will occur in October when we reelect most of our officers. I have included a form for you to use if you are interested in being nominated for any of the offices. Please note the deadline date on the form. Nominations from the floor are always welcome. If you would like more information on the duties of an office, please contact me.

*Mary Brown*

The fact that an article appears in *Nutmeg Gratings* does not in any way reflect that *Gratings*, its staff, or the CT. Society of Mayflower Descendants guarantees the historical accuracy of any information contained therein.

## Committees 2018

**Auditor** Brian Bristol

**Ass't Treasurer**

Joan Prentice jowp32@hotmail.com

**By-Laws**

Robert Cushman Cjc119@aol.com

Joan Prentice jowp32@hotmail.com

**Computer Scanning**

Greg Thompson gthomp5749@aol.com

**Education**

Ellen Swayne eswayne@comcast.net

Mary Brown mbrown06239@gmail.com

David Grant sybilcreek@yahoo.com

Donna Mangiafico 912djm@gmail.com

Dawn Darche Ddarche@verizon.net

**Finance Committee**

David Grant sybilcreek@yahoo.com

Donald Studley dtstudley@snet.net

Joan Prentice jowp32@hotmail.com

Charles Zoubek clzoubek@yahoo.com

**Hospitality**

William Lane lanewjg@comcast.net

**Insignia**

Nancy Merwin nancyamerwin284@gmail.com

**Junior Enrollment**

Mary Brown mbrown06239@gmail.com

Ellen Swayne eswayne@comcast.net

**Membership**

Joan Prentice jowp32@hotmail.com

Greg Thompson gthomp5749@aol.com

**Newsletter**

Randall Russell nutmegarchive01@yahoo.com

Kerry Comisky kakjcomisky@att.net

**Nominations**

Joan Prentice jowp32@hotmail.com

Bill Lane lanewjg@comcast.net

**Publicity**

Dwight Hulbert dhulbert@optonline.net

**Programs**

Nola Johannes nola.j@cox.net

**Reservations**

Nancy Merwin nancyamerwin284@gmail.com

**Scholarship**

Kurt Comisky kurtcomisky@att.net

Julia Parker Post jppart@sbcglobal.net

Sally D'Amato primosara@aol.com

Randall Russell nutmegarchive01@yahoo.com

## Directory of Officers 2018

**Governor**

Mary Brown mbrown06239@gmail.com  
860-774-3458

**Deputy Governor**

Greg Thompson gthomp5749@aol.com  
203-215-1755

**Recording Secretary**

Dawn Darche dawndar@gmail.com

**Corresponding Secretary**

Donna Mangiafico 912djm@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

David Grant sybilcreek@yahoo.com  
203-315-0561

**Historian**

Marjorie Hurtuk mhurtuk@aol.com

**Elder**

Rev. Jean E. Knapp peterjean@sbcglobal.net  
860-536-6170

**Captain**

William J. Lane, Jr. lanewjg@comcast.net  
203-288-5863

**Archivist**

Greg Thompson gthomp5749@aol.com  
203-215-1755

Nola Johannes, Asst.

nola.j@cox.net

**Assistants**

Nola Johannes nola.j@cox.net

Joan Prentice jowp32@hotmail.com

Julia Parker Post jppart@sbcglobal.net

Ellen Swayne eswayne@comcast.net

Steven Arnold arnold1620@outlook.com

Don Studley tstudley@snet.net

**General Society Officers**

**Deputy Governor General for CT**

Greg Thompson gthomp5749@aol.com

**Assistant General for CT**

Mary Brown mbrown06239@gmail.com

**General Society Member At Large**

Donald Studley dtstudley@snet.net

**General Society Historian General**

Midge Hurtuk mhurtuk@aol.com



New Members at the October 28, 2017 meeting.

### Our Newest Members as of Our October 2017 Meeting

**Descendants of John Alden**

Debra L. Leone, Colchester, CT  
 Kylee Rose Martin, Lancaster, CA  
 Stacey Elizabeth Rice, Stamford, CT  
 Virginia Louise Willard Falkner, Chicago, IL  
 Heather Stephanie Willard, Old Wethersfield, CT  
 Howard Arnold Willard III, Richmond, VA  
 Howard Arnold Willard IV, Richmond, VA  
 Daniel Manchester Shaw, Wilton, NY

**Descendants of Isaac Allerton**

Grant David Worthington, Easton, CT

**Descendants of William Bradford**

Michael Walter Wagner, Oswego, IL  
 Patricia Ann De Maio, Hamden, CT

**Descendants of Edward Fuller**

McKenzie W. Turrisi, North Stonington, CT

**Descendants of Constance Hopkins**

Martha Ann Davidson, Manchester, CT

**Descendants of Stephen Hopkins**

Jeanine A. Lawrence, Quaker Hill, CT  
 Katie June Hill, Washington Depot, CT  
 Kevin F. Weaton, Bethel, CT  
 Paige Elizabeth Hadlock, Southington, CT  
 Diane M. Kessler, Lebanon, CT

**Descendants of John Howland**

Collin Booth Davis, South Windsor, CT  
 Frank Morgan Jenks, Niantic, CT  
 Judith Ann Bowen, Wethersfield, CT  
 Steven Basil Arnold, Ansonia, CT

**Descendants of Degory Priest**

Mark, Ashley Herron, Charleston, MA

**Descendants of Thomas Rogers**

Richard Holmes, East Windsor, CT

**Descendants of Henry Samson**

Darcy Alicia Kern, New Haven, CT

**Descendants of George Soule**

James Walter Place, Rocky Hill, CT  
 Carolyn S. Adams, Jacksonville, FL

**Descendants of Myles Standish**

Barbara Ellen Rood McCollum, Coventry, CT

**Descendants of Elizabeth Tilley**


Brittany Amira Dolce, Old Lyme

**Descendants of Richard Warren**

Mellissa Lynn Arnold Mullins, CT  
 Judith Ann (Markham) Arnold, Ansonia, CT  
 Mary Virginia Warren, Ansonia, CT


*In Memoriam*


Eleanor Wright 

Katie Jane Hill 

George Upton 

Mary Kaupin 


Susan Weady 


Donald Harris 

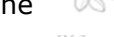
Julia Kersteen 

Alice Sailer 

Robert Jeffery Jr. 

Mary Markham 

Judith Mott 

Marilyn Vetrane 

Erminnie Rhinewald 

William Weston 

Dr. Joseph Vecchiarino III 



# Nominating Committee Form



Are you interested in serving as an elected officer in the Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendants? Our next general election will take place on October 27, 2018 at our scheduled meeting. Please take the time to consider which office you are able to fill and submit this form to our nominating committee at Ms. Joan Prentice, 32 Nichols Lane, Waterford, CT 06385 by May 1, 2018 for consideration.

Yes, I would like to be considered for:

### OFFICER POSITION

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Governor                | <input type="checkbox"/> Elder                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Governor         | <input type="checkbox"/> Captain                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recording Secretary     | <input type="checkbox"/> Historian                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corresponding Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Archivist                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer               | <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant (2 to be elected) |

### \*Note:

All terms of office are a three year commitment and require attendance at 2 general society meetings and 3 board of assistants meetings per year.

### My qualifications for the position are:

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### References and contact information:

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# THE MORE CHILDREN (OF THE MAYFLOWER)

BY DWIGHT HULBURT

Samuel More, age 16, was married to his fifth cousin, Catherine (More), age 21; both were from wealthy and prominent families. It appears to have been an arranged marriage. Most likely to keep land and property in the More family. It seems there was never any love between them. Samuel was away from home most of the time, often working for an aristocrat in London. While Samuel and Catherine were married, four children were born at Shipton, Shropshire, England:

Ellen: May 12, 1612

Jasper: August 8, 1613

Richard: Baptized November 13, 1614

Mary: Baptised April 16, 1616

Samuel realized the children looked remarkably like Catherine's lover, Jacob Blakeway, a tenant farmer of the More family.

In 1616, Samuel turned 21 and gained control of the family estates – Linely and Larden. He also took control of the children. From 1616 to 1620, the More children were confined to the care of a tenant farmer of Richard More, Samuel's father.

At this time, 1616, Samuel began a long contentious divorce with Catherine, which was eventually granted. Samuel and Catherine were divorced in June/July 1619. The children were declared bastards by the court. Samuel refused to acknowledge the children as his own. He disinherited them from any rights to the More properties. The children were sent to London to be shipped out to America on the Mayflower. They were put under the immediate care of Thomas Weston, John Carver and Robert Cushman. Thomas Weston received 100 pounds to cover the children's passage and to finance the shares in the colony. At the end of 7 years, each child was to receive 50 acres. Ellen 8, was assigned to Edward Winslow. Jasper 7, was assigned to Governor Carver. Richard 5, and Mary 4, were assigned to William and Mary Brewster

The children did not fare well. Jasper More was the first of the children to die. At the time of his death, the Mayflower was in Provincetown Harbor. He died on board the ship. Mary and Ellen were the first to die in

Plimoth. Richard was the only one to survive to adulthood.

*Epilogue by Kerry Comisky*

*We were unable to get a hold of Dwight to ask him if he would please satisfy our curiosity and write a short blurb on what became of Richard. The following information was gleamed from the same source material as Dwight's wonderful piece.*

Richard as an adult; the only More child to survive to adulthood

It is known that Richard was still residing with the Brewsters as late as 1627. In 1636, Richard married Christian Hunter, where they soon after made their home in Salem, producing seven children during their marriage. Richard eventually became a sea captain, sailing to England, the West Indies and up and down the Eastern Seaboard from Nova Scotia to Virginia. Christian died in 1676 at the age of 60 and Richard then married Jane Crumpton, who also predeceased Richard, passing away in 1686 at the age of 55.



Richard had some trouble with Salem Church authorities in his later years, where authorities claimed they long suspected him of crimes of a lascivious nature, but lacking any proof, were unable to secure a conviction. Eventually, a Justice of the Peace was able to convict him of "gross unchastity with another man's wife" through the testimony of 3 witnesses. Richard's punishment was censure by the Salem Church. He died sometime between 1693 and 1696, just after the end of the Salem Witch Trials hysteria, which I suppose based on his history with the Salem Church, he was lucky to have survived.

1. Mayflower by Nathaniel Philbrick
2. Making Haste from Babylon by Nick Bunker
3. Mayflower Bastard by David Lindsay
4. Information compiled by Margaret Harris Stover from various sources; General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

## Connecticut Mayflower Scholarship Patron

During our voyage to 2020 and the celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mayflower's voyage, join in the commemoration with a special commitment. The three CT Mayflower Scholarships are now two year renewable scholarships of \$1000 per year. We would like to increase the awards to four year renewable scholarships as a goal for our 2020 commemoration.

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 during the first winter. The bars indicate ranks of the crew of the Begin with the Boatswain bar, earn the Pilot bar, then the Master's finally the Master bar to complete your roster.

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

How to donate?

Send a check made out the CT Mayflower Society to Mr. David L. Grant, 2 Sybil Creek Place, Branford, CT 06405. Upon receipt of the donation, you will be mailed your recognition pin and subsequent bars.

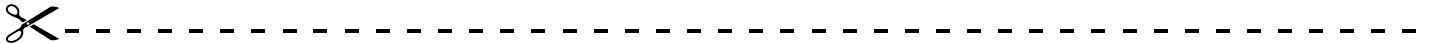
The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Connecticut is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible to the extent the IRS will allow.



our ancestors  
Mayflower.

Mate bar and

donation of \$100  
dedication to  
include the  
first year. You  
\$100 annual  
at one time. If



Yes, I want to honor my Pilgrim and the crew who brought them to the Plimoth Colony

Please accept my donation of \_\_\_\$500\_\_\_\$800 \_\_\_\$100\_\_\_other.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Checks made out to CT Mayflower Society should be mailed to:

David L. Grant  
2 Sybil Creek Place  
Branford, CT 06405



## The Oldest Bell in the New World

### The Bell at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, East Haddam



The bell now hanging in St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church on Main Street in East Haddam is thought to be the oldest bell in the New World. It was originally cast for a Spanish monastery in 815 A.D. When Napoleon invaded Spain, the church housing the bell was destroyed and the bell left among the rubble.

In 1834, a Yankee sea captain loaded the bell as part of the scrap metal used as ballast for the voyage home. Thus the bell began its trip to Connecticut. Discovered in New York, it was sent by a ship chandler to his wife’s hometown of East Haddam.

While you are in East Haddam checking out the St. Stephen’s bell, also check out **Nathan Hale School House**, a **Sons of the American Revolution** project, where Hale briefly taught school. Take a drive across the CT River on one of the oldest operational swing bridges in the United States (that is if you haven’t already seen it when you went to check out the ice jams in January) that provide close up views of

the iconic Goodspeed Opera House. Built in 1876 and restored to its former glory, you can not only tour the Opera House but also still see a Broadway musical. If you get hungry, there are several great places in the area to get a meal, whether you want a formal sit-down dinner or to just grab a sandwich. All of these venues are within a mile radius of St. Stephen’s bell. Because of East Haddam’s location on the river, the area is also a fantastic spot for eagle watching for you naturalists in our Society.

### A Nutmeg Gratings omission provides a Sunday Drive segue to a historic nursery in Danielson. Logee’s Nursery

Last issue, we neglected to credit Ellen Swayne for the wonderful article she wrote on uses for herbs. Not only was it informative, the image Ellen created of suddenly smelling mint during her woodland walk and realizing she had wandered into the remnants of a long forgotten kitchen garden growing alongside an old well and that she had been crushing mint beneath her feet, releasing the aroma into the air, was enchanting. So please note that you enjoyed learning about uses for herbs in our last Nutmeg Gratings, courtesy of our Board of Assistant and Education Committee Chair, **Ellen Swayne**.

And while we are on the topic of gardens, here is another reminder to consider growing heirloom plants in your garden this year as our Pilgrim ancestors did in theirs. If you are considering it, please also consider supporting Plimoth Plantation. Plimoth Plantation has a wide array of heirloom seeds to choose from that can be ordered from their website or you can contact Plimoth Plantation and request one of their Heirloom Seed Catalogs.



If you are a plant lover who prefers started plants, treat yourself to a fantastic **Sunday Drive**, and visit **Logee’s Nursery** in Danielson. Logee’s is a family run, historic greenhouse and retail destination nursery. Built in the 1890s by the nursery’s founder, it is now home to hundreds of exotic plants, the centerpiece being the 100+ year old citrus trees the founder planted when he opened the nursery. The oldest greenhouse is now one of six adjoining greenhouse facilities. Logee’s is a great source for heirloom plants as well as a feast for the eyes, a delight to the senses, and a rejuvenating tonic for the winter blahs. Logee’s Nursery is located at 141 North St. in Danielson.

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## Call for Articles



Do you have an interest in a topic, but don’t feel up to writing about it? **OR** Have you written an article or essay that you would like to submit for consideration for publication in the *Nutmeg Gratings*? Please submit your well documented article or ideas for articles to Randy via [nutmegarchive01@yahoo.com](mailto:nutmegarchive01@yahoo.com).



The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Connecticut

Name Tags

The CSMD now has name tags available for members. The badges are pink, featuring the CSMD ship logo and name in black. Both magnetic and pin backs are available, the price is \$10.00 per name tag, and \$2.50 shipping and handling, if applicable. Badges may be ordered and available for the Fall CSMD meeting or mailed.

Please print your name as you wish to have it on the name tag, and specify either pin or magnet.

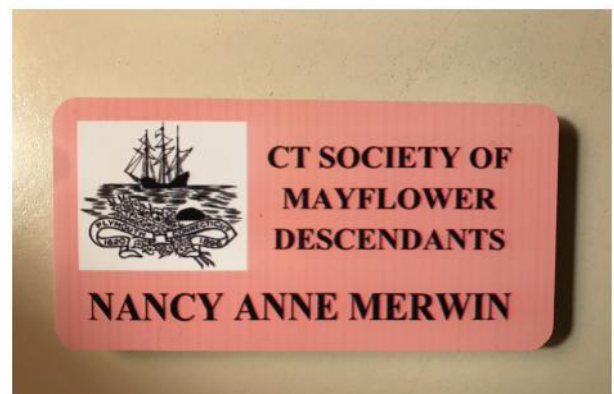
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pin \_\_\_\_\_ Magnet

Amount enclosed:

Please send your order form and check, payable to Mayflower Society of CT, to the following address:

Nancy A. Merwin  
284 Chesterfield Road  
Oakdale, CT 06370-1651



Proceeds from the sale of the name tags will benefit the CSMD Scholarship Fund.

Additional names may be listed on the back of this form.



## ***DAILY LIFE IN THE PILGRIM COLONY 1636***

**Paul Erikson**

**A book review by Randall Russell**



One picture is often worth "a thousand words." This 8 x 11 inch, 46 page book is chock full of illustrations and photographs. It is a wonderfully visual reference that brings to life images of our ancestor's daily lives. While respectful of efforts to build a new society from the ground up, it centers less on the political and religious context of the time than it does on the household functioning and survival of an average family.

Erikson introduces us to the fictitious Prentiss family. In addition to their two children, Jonathon and Rebecca Prentiss are raising two older children, fathered by Rebecca's first husband, now deceased. Also part of the family, is a twenty year old, "apprentice", formally or informally indentured to Jonathon. Many Plymouth families could easily have met a similar profile.

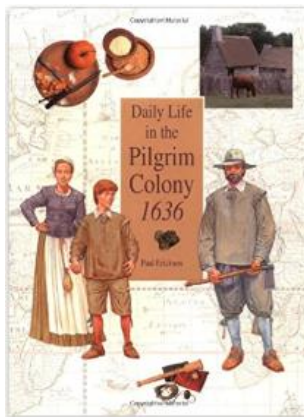
Any misconceptions the reader may be harboring about life in Plymouth are quickly dispelled as the author graphically depicts what the homestead was like, how animal

husbandry was conducted, what kind of clothes people really wore. He discusses health and medicine, cooking and eating, trade and defense, making and mending, and to some extent, government and religion. The author tells us what distinguished a man's work from female occupations. Erikson even talks about what a child's day was probably like, including their chores and games.

We learn that the most common bread eaten by our forefathers was called "rye and Injun" made with a mixture of cornmeal, rye, and barley flour. Read about how soap was made and used, how hay was gathered, as well as how wood was felled, fashioned, and put to use.

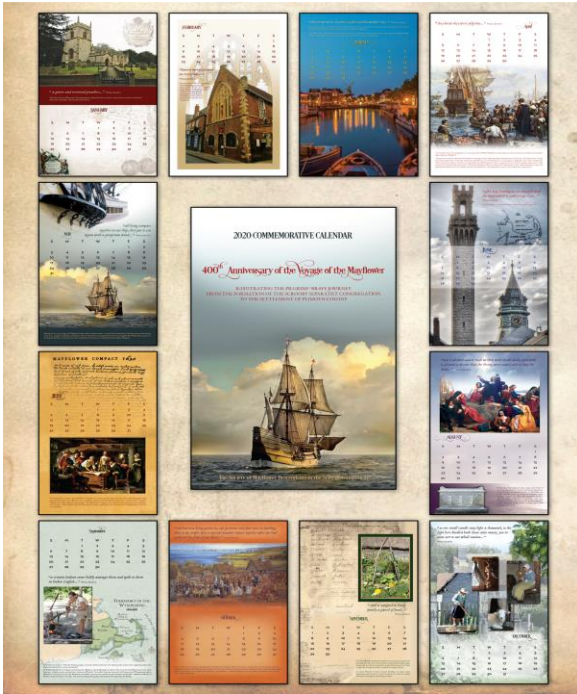
While the book is fun to read with a child or grandchild it is far from infantile. The graphics are a powerful means by which to grasp the essence of daily life in Plymouth during the 1600s.

Originally written in 1976, the book is:



***Daily Life in the Pilgrim Colony 1636***  
***Paul Erikson, Clarion Books***

## 2020 Commemorative Calendar



The Mayflower 2020 Commemorative Calendar is a beautifully illustrated, chronological, story of the Pilgrims' journey. Calendar pages include the All Saints Church in Babworth, Nottinghamshire, England where a Separatist movement was formed, the Boston Guildhall where the Pilgrims were imprisoned when attempting to flee to Holland, the creation and signing of the Mayflower Compact, their connection with the Wampanoag, the general sickness the first winter, the "first Thanksgiving," and settlement of Plimoth Colony to name a few. The 2020 Commemorative Calendar is 11" x 17.5", printed on 80# silk cover, and bound at the top with wire loop binding. **All proceeds from 2020 Commemorative Calendar sales will benefit the scholarship fund of The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Connecticut.**

View Calendar or to purchase in non-bulk quantities on line using PayPal or Credit Card at:

[http://ctmayflower.org/2020\\_calendar.php](http://ctmayflower.org/2020_calendar.php)

Pricing	
Quantity	Price per calendar
1-25	\$20.00
*26-99	\$18.00
*100-249	\$15.00
*250-500	\$12.00
*500 or more	\$10.00
*Denotes bulk orders Pricing does not include shipping and Handling	

**ATTENTION CT MAYFLOWER MEMBERS!**  
See a copy of the calendar at our April 21, 2018 meeting. Order your calendars at the April meeting for pick up at the October 27, 2018 meeting to save on shipping and handling.

For bulk ordering, please contact Donna Mangiafico by email [912djm@gmail.com](mailto:912djm@gmail.com)

Or phone 203-788-7474



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*For Non-Bulk Orders Using Check or Money Order*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_

State or Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity \_\_\_\_ x \$20.00

Mail a check along with this form to:

Donna Mangiafico  
10 Equestrian Way  
Poughquag, NY 12570

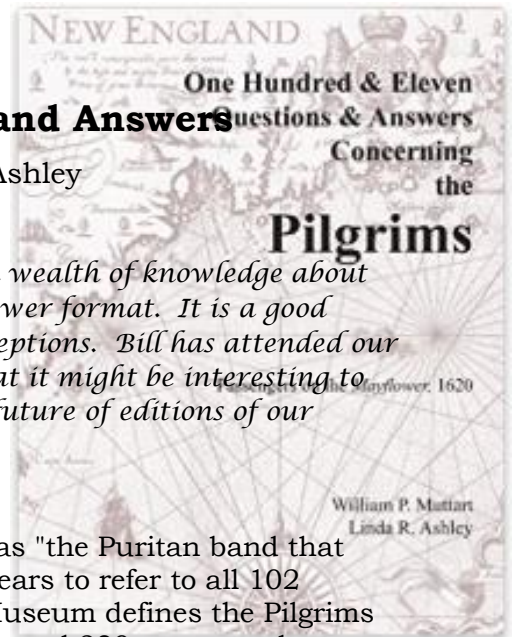
Calendar Total	\$
+ S&H	\$
Final Total	\$

# *Excerpts from* **One Hundred & Eleven questions and Answers**

By William P. Muttart and Linda R. Ashley

Randall Russell

*This book, published in 2007 and 2009 by Mayflower Press, is a wealth of knowledge about our ancestors, organized in an easy-to-follow question and answer format. It is a good source of information, often debunking many popular misconceptions. Bill has attended our meeting where he distributed copies of his book. We decided that it might be interesting to offer excerpted questions and answers as a regular feature in future editions of our newsletter. We hope you will enjoy them.*



## **(1) Who were the Pilgrims?**

Webster's Universal College Dictionary identifies the Pilgrims as "the Puritan band that founded the Plymouth Colony in 1620," interpreted over the years to refer to all 102 passengers who arrived on the *Mayflower*. The Pilgrim Hall Museum defines the Pilgrims as "all the early colonists of Plymouth." That includes an estimated 230 persons who arrived at Plymouth through 1623 on the *Mayflower*, the *Fortune*, and the *Little James*. Plimoth Plantation identifies the settlers in the Plymouth village of 1627 as "English Colonists" since they were not known as Pilgrims at that time. Some accounts identify as "Pilgrims" anyone who resided in Plymouth Colony during its 71 years of existence from 1621 through the year 1692.

## **(2) Did most of the passengers leave England to seek religious freedom?**

Only about 52 of the 102 passengers on the *Mayflower* were believed to be part of the group that fled England to seek religious freedom. Many of these passengers, known as "Separatists," left England in 1608 and lived in Leiden, Holland, until 1620. The Separatists also referred to themselves as the "Saints."

The majority of the other passengers were part of a London group, some of whom were associated with the investors who had financed the voyage of the *Mayflower*. Since most of those passengers were not known to the Separatists, they were often referred to as the "Strangers." Those passengers were motivated to leave England for economic reasons or a decision to start a new life. However, some of the Strangers were known to be sympathetic to the cause of the Separatists or were related to persons in that group.

## **(3) Were the Mayflower passengers referred to as Pilgrims in 1620?**

No they were not commonly referred to as "Pilgrims" until after 1793 when Reverend Chandler Robbins, while speaking at a Forefather's Day celebration in Plymouth, described the passengers on the *Mayflower* as "pilgrims." It is probable that Reverend Chandler was using a term in a Biblical sense, referring to the Epistle to the Hebrews that identifies a pilgrim as a stranger, a traveler, and a wanderer. When William Bradford wrote earlier about the Separatists leaving Holland he commented, "but they knew they were pilgrims." Although Bradford's accounts were first published in 1669, they were lost for many years and not recovered until the mid-1800. Consequently, Reverend Robbins may not have been aware of Bradford's use of the term. Although Reverend Robbins may have used the term "pilgrim" to identify only the Separatist passengers, in the years following his remarks all the 102 passengers were referred to as "Pilgrims" or "*Mayflower* Pilgrims."

**More excerpts will follow in future editions!**

17 November 2017

## Going It Alone: Documentary Director Jane Williams Shares the Story of Making Her Indie Documentary, “Pilgrim Home”



*In this guest blog post, Birmingham-based director and WFTV member, Jane Williams describes her journey from BBC secretary to making her first independent documentary, Pilgrim Home – the untold story of an English Manor house where events over 400 years ago would come to define the spirit and ideals of the United States of America.*

“Hello good Pilgrim.” Standing in a small village square high in the Polish Tatra Mountains, these words were as unexpected as they were unfamiliar. I was thousands of miles away from home and a world away from this warm, yet simple greeting. I was puzzled – why call me a Pilgrim?

Having heard my English accent, an American presumed my familiarity with the Pilgrim story and chose to address me as another well-met traveler. He was a historian and had an enthusiasm that has characterized many I have since met.

*“Whilst searching for stories in the East Midlands for series such as Coast and Country file, the Pilgrims was frequently mentioned. Like many people, however, I dismissed them.”*

On returning home, after much persistence, I secured a job as a secretary at BBC Birmingham. Gradually I worked my way into factual TV production. It was there that I learnt about the techniques of historical research: not just how to lift the thread of a story from a text. There is something thrilling about touching an old photograph, letter or document. It is in these moments that you can reach out, touch the past and become a virtual time-traveler.

He explained to me about the journey of the Mayflower ship from England to North America in 1620. Her passengers were a mix of religious radicals and merchant adventurers from across England; some seeking religious freedom and all a better way of life.

The group now known as the ‘Pilgrims’ are remembered each year in North America during Thanksgiving. Their story is a huge part of the country’s cultural heritage. A seed had been planted in me but it took many years to take root.



*The Mayflower Compact*



I have been fortunate enough to work on many award winning productions and have had privileged access to wonderful people and places. Whilst searching for stories in the East Midlands for series such as *Coast and Country file*, the Pilgrims was frequently mentioned. Like many people, however, I dismissed them.

Years later as a producer and director, on the wrong side of 30, I hoped to settle down and start a family. But as a director constantly ‘on the road’, I found this difficult. Program budgets were increasingly tight and hours long. If I was going to have to work so very hard to do the job I love, I was going to do it on my own terms. I decided to go it alone.

It was at this time that my interest in the Pilgrims was reignited. I met a lady calling herself ‘The Pilgrim Mother’ in honor of female pioneers. It is a peculiarity that in England we only refer to the ‘Pilgrim Fathers’ yet the women formed the first families in New England.

Through her I was introduced to Sue Allan, a local author and historian. Sue told me about Scrooby and the wider East Midlands association with the people who sailed from England to the United States on the Mayflower. Sue’s own story and enthusiasm for the Pilgrims was contagious. I was hooked.

### ***Scrooby Manor***

One of the most significant Pilgrims was a man by the name of William Brewster. His early life was spent in Scrooby Manor in Nottinghamshire. Not only was Brewster a passenger on the Mayflower he is also the person most likely responsible for writing ‘The Mayflower Compact’, commonly cited as the forerunner of the United States Constitution.

It strikes me as incredible, given our close ties with America, that most people here only have a vague knowledge of this period in Anglo-American history. Today up to one in 12 living North Americans could be descended from just 102 Mayflower passengers. Brewster descendants alone include Richard Gere, Ellen DeGeneres, Geena Davis and Seth MacFarlane.

Today, little remains of Scrooby Manor, now a



### ***Scrooby Manor***

humble farm lived in by three generations of the Dunstan family. What could this aged ruin tell us? What particularly interests me are the tales of ordinary people, amateur historians, house renovators and the army of volunteers who help maintain our heritage.

History is often presented as a series of events and facts. For me, history is alive. It surrounds and influences us daily. How we tell, interpret and learn from history will influence our own survival. Moreover this important Pilgrim history is centered in the Midlands, my home. Over five years ago I started the process of making my debut independent feature-length documentary, *Pilgrim Home*.

I did my research, identified potential markets, created a budget and wrote a seven-year business plan. Then I began documenting life in Scrooby and at the Manor. The Manor’s current owners are the Dunstan’s. They are a very private family but have trusted me to discreetly film their home. It warms me that the Manor is still lived in by a family who cherish it and thus ensure its continuing story.

*“This has been a very personal and challenging experience on all levels. At times the story has leapt into life by itself; at others it has remained stubbornly silent.”*

It’s been a very slow process, not only due to lack of funding, but the time needed to investigate the history of Scrooby Manor properly. Sue, the historian, has unearthed documents not seen for centuries. If I had been working to commercial and broadcast constraints, it quite simply couldn’t have been made.

Throughout the production I’ve continued to work in TV to finance much of *Pilgrim Home*. I’ve also raised funds through paid ‘work in

progress' screenings and talks. The people who I've met along the way have generously supplied donations, accommodation, food, emotional support and friendship.

*Pilgrim Home* is almost finished and includes everything that's considered quintessentially British. The documentary lends itself to distribution through digital platforms, branded content, sponsorship or event viewing – all of which I am pursuing.



*Julie Dunstan and historian Sue Allan*

This has been a very personal and challenging experience on all levels. At times the story has leapt into life by itself; at others it has remained

stubbornly silent. I've fought with the script, interweaving a complicated period in history with a modern human-interest story. I've made the two protagonists not academics but 'ordinary' women. This is history told from the heart of the home.

There's a much bigger story though and that's what continues to keep me motivated. Nearly 400 years later, how much has really changed? Today, in 2017 as in 1620, people are still making perilous journeys by boat in search of a better life. Some seek escape from persecution, others poverty, many both. It's that continuum of history that fascinates me and the opportunity to reframe the current Pilgrim narrative to make it relevant now. By delving into the past, it is possible to shine a light on the present.



If you would like to contact Jane about the film or its distribution, please e-mail: [jane@fandangomedia.co.uk](mailto:jane@fandangomedia.co.uk)



Scenes  
from Our  
October  
2017  
Meeting





*Introducing Our April 21, 2018 General Meeting Speaker*

**Whit Perry**

*Director of Maritime Preservation and Operations*

In his role as Plimoth Plantation’s Director of Maritime Preservation and Operations, Whit Perry is responsible for all aspects of the Museum’s maritime program, including the multi-year, multi-million dollar *Mayflower II* Restoration Project.

Whit came to Plimoth Plantation with more than thirty years of experience working with wooden boats. His most recent post was at the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation where he maintained and operated three square-rigged vessels for 10 years. Whit has a long history with ships and sailing, having journeyed all over the North Atlantic, Caribbean, and the Mediterranean. He has sailed a wide variety of vessels, from small catboats to square riggers, schooners, and sloops.

**GENERAL MEETING APRIL 21, 2018**

**SOCIAL HOUR AT 11 - LUNCHEON & MEETING AT 12 NOON**

**The Gallery**, 141 New London Tpke, Glastonbury, CT 06033 Telephone: 860-659-2656

**Directions:** From all points, Route 2; Exit 8 Turn right onto Hebron Ave. 3<sup>rd</sup> Left onto New London Tpke.

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**PLEASE CHOOSE ONE FOR EACH ATTENDEE:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Roast Top Sirloin, \$29</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Baked Stuffed Filet of Sole, \$29</b>                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chicken Marsala, \$29</b>    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chicken Tenders and Fries, \$12 (12 &amp; under)</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Egg Plant Parmesan, \$29</b> |  |

**Total \$ Enclosed**

**Dinner includes Salad, Warm Rolls with Butter and Ice Cream Pie for Dessert.**

**There will be a cash bar.**

**Please send this completed form and payment (checks made out to Mayflower Society of CT) by April 12, 2018 to:**

***Nancy Merwin, 284 Chesterfield Rd., Oakdale, CT***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Member?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Society of Mayflower Descendants  
In the State of Connecticut  
32 Nichols Lane  
Waterford, CT 06385**