



# Nutmeg Gratings

February 2017

Volume 37, Number 1

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

How can I thank you? We now have a renewable scholarship in place for our three annual recipients. It is only renewable once, but with our continued efforts and your generosity, it will grow to be a four year award.

The raffle tables at our meetings in 2016 raised over \$1300 and with the bequests and donations, we are able to expand our support to young scholars. What a legacy we have created! Would you like to donate raffle items? Please bring new or gently used goods in their original packaging if possible. Opened and partially consumed items are not appropriate.

2020 is now only three years away. Plans are well under way for a collectible calendar, a traveling display, articles to be published in Connecticut/New England related magazines. Do you have any suggestions for events that would celebrate this most important time? How about an article or and idea for one? What type of commemorative gathering should be held? How can we get the general public involved? Please let us know.

Are you sporting the license plate holders on your vehicle? What an easy way to reach the general public. Instead of reading which dealer you bought your car at, you can provide a bit of instant history knowledge to your fellow travelers.

The Pennies For Planks donations yielded \$300 for Connecticut Mayflower, but I

put out a challenge to the other state societies. At this writing six other states responded with \$5031 and the General Society has donated \$5000 for a total of \$1031 to assist in Mayflower II's rehabilitation. Let's do this again for the April 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please set aside your loose change between now and April 29<sup>th</sup> and see if we can't beat our last challenge. If you would like to send a check instead, please send this to David Grant, 2 Sybil Creek Pl, Branford, CT 06405. Be sure to note that it is for Mayflower II. Again, thank you very much.

The Education Committee is developing a handout for the April 29<sup>th</sup> meeting that features Saints and Strangers. Who belongs to each group? Not all the initial voyagers were Separatists. Several were hired by the backers of the colony to provide various expertise to assure the colony's success. Which group does your Pilgrim fall into?

We have new newsletter editors. Please read on and provide feedback for items you would like to see continued or discontinued in the newsletter.

*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 2017

**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  
203-661-8827

**Hospitality:**

William Lane lanewjg@comcast.net

**Insignia:**

Nancy Merwin nancymerwin284@gmail.com

**Junior Enrollment:**

Mary Brown mbrown06239@gmail.com

Ellen Swayne eswayne@comcast.net

Beverly Warner [BJCW13@gmail.com](mailto:BJCW13@gmail.com)

**Membership:**

Joan Prentice jowp32@hotmail.com

Greg Thompson gthomp5749@aol.com

**Newsletter:**

Randall Russell nutmegarchive01@aol.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:**

Beverly Warner [BJCW13@gmail.com](mailto:BJCW13@gmail.com)  
860-923-3363

**Scholarship:**

William Warner wwarner13@gmail.com

Julia Parker Post jppart@sbcglobal.net

Sally D'Amato

Randall Russell nutmegarchive01@aol.com

## Directory of Officers 2017

**Governor:**

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

**Deputy Governor:**

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

**Recording Secretary:**

Dawn Darche ddarche@verizon.net

**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](mailto: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

Beverly Warner [BJCW13@gmail.com](mailto:BJCW13@gmail.com)

Don Studley dtstudley@snet.net

**Deputy Governor General of CT:**

Greg Thompson gthomp5749@aol.com

**Assistant General for CT:**

Mary Brown mbrown06239@gmail.com

**General Society Treasurer General:**

Donald Studley dtstudley@snet.net

**General Society**

**Historian General**

Midge Hurtuk

Editors – Randall Russell and Kerry Comisky  
Photographs – Richard Sargent



New Members and Junior Affiliate Members at the Oct. 29, 2016 meeting.

## Our Newest Members As Of Our October Meeting

### Descendants of John Alden

Carol Lee Adkins, Austin, TX  
Pamela Jean Fallon, New Canaan, CT

### Descendants of William Bradford

Kenneth Donald Murphy, Manlius, NY  
Sara Bradford Sallembien,  
Sanit-Germain-en-Laye, France

### Descendant of John Billington

Eleanor Jean Berner, Coventry CT

### Descendants of William Brewster

Tammy Marie Byron, Old Lyme, CT

### Descendant of Francis Cooke

Jennifer Lynn Thompson Gilchrist, Norwalk  
Diane Smith Vander Voort, Suffield, CT

### Descendant of Samuel Fuller

Beverly Russo, Ellington, CT

### Descendants of Stephen Hopkins

Beverly Russo, Ellington, CT

### Descendants of John Howland

Ruth W. Tefft, Baltic, CT

### Descendants of George Soule

Victoria Lee Hobb Hamet, Riverside, CT

### Descendants of Myles Standish

Marvis Diane Donovan, Winchester, VA

### Descendant of William White

Diane Geraldine Nash, Simsbury, CT  
Pamela Steeves, Southington, CT  
Timothy Alan Bishop, Stratford. CT

### In Memorium

Allen, Janice died 1/6/2016 age 91  
Babbott, Ruth died 6/8/16 age 74  
Belcher, Chester died 7/5/2016 age 94  
Bird, Charles died 12/15/16  
Chandler, Elizabeth died 10/5/16 age 59  
Duffy, Caryl died 10/31/16 age 83  
Fisher, Frederick died 5/6/2016 age 75  
Gerber, Lois died 1/15/2016 age 90  
Griswold, Marjorie died 5/19/16 age 93  
Hopkins, Everett died 10/25/16 age 78  
Hugins, Calvin died 8/15/2016 age 80  
Iversen, Maris died 10/16/2016 age 98  
Kemp, Peter died 5/16/2016 age 67  
Longwell, Barbara died 4/17/16 age 92  
Lubee Jr, Wesley died 1/20/2016 age 85  
McCormack, Cynthia died 9/21/16 age 80  
Rowland, Myrtle died 9/10/2015 age 86  
Smith, Roberta Jane died 4/14/2016 age 96  
Watson, Alice died 11/27/16 age 83  
Willerford, Theodore died 11/23/16 age 86  
Winship, Johnson died 6/17/2016 age 87  
Wright, John died 9/11/2016 age 98

### Lost Juniors

These children have moved. Do you know their new address?

Bradley, Marion  
Buck, Riley and Sara  
Collier, Gager and Isabella  
Eldridge, Mason  
Kulkin, Cody  
Lieberman, Scarlett  
Loveall, Rozelyn  
Stewart, Iona and Vanessa  
Viera, Daniela and Luca

## **The Sad Story of John Bradford Another Connecticut link to Plymouth Randall Russell**

In the Spring 2015 issue of *Nutmeg Gratings*, Mary Brown wrote a very informative article about Plymouth's trading house at Windsor, Connecticut. In that article she explained the efforts of Governor Winslow and John Holmes to establish and operate a trading post there from 1633 -1639. As Mary mentioned, Plymouth Colony was heavily indebted to English investors, otherwise known as Merchant Adventurers. The debt needed to be repaid. (1)

As fur-bearing resources around Plymouth gradually depleted, leadership began looking toward less settled areas where beaver, in particular, were still plentiful. This initiative led to the expansion of trade to places now known as Maine and New Hampshire, as well as the wilds of Connecticut, hence, the establishment of the Windsor site. Another aspect of Plymouth's expansion was a trading post operated by Jonathon Brewster on the west bank of the Thames River near Norwich, then known as Mohigen, Connecticut. The place is now known as Brewster's Neck. He was the son of Elder Brewster but arrived on *The Fortune* in 1621, a year after his father. He started trading in 1650, without the approval of Connecticut authorities, who claimed jurisdiction. After initially censuring him for his actions, the General Court later legalized his endeavors. One can speculate that it was because Uncas of the Mohegans had given Brewster a large tract of land as an inducement to set up the trading post. Both Plymouth and Connecticut needed Indian allies and Uncas had proven to be fairly reliable. He had assisted the English in the extermination of the Pequots in 1637 and had engaged in decades of warfare with the Narragansetts, who were viewed as

threats by white settlers. In return for English assistance Uncas granted a nine mile square of land that later became Norwich. (2)

By 1650, after years of staying within eight miles of the coast, Plymouth had expanded to Duxbury, Bridgewater, Marshfield, Cape Cod, points south and further inland. There was no longer unlimited land available for farming, wood supplies were diminishing, and population was increasing. Into this context comes the story of John Bradford, son of Governor William Bradford.

John was born of William Bradford and Dorothy May at Leiden in 1617. When the Bradfords left Delfshaven, they made the difficult decision to leave their three year old son in Holland, probably with Dorothy's parents in Amsterdam. Because other families had brought their children, it may be that John was too frail or ill to make the voyage. On December 7, 1620, Dorothy Bradford slipped over the side of the *Mayflower* into the waters of Provincetown Harbor and drowned. This occurred while her husband and several other men were scouting Cape Cod Bay in a smaller boat known as a shallop. In *Magnalia Christi Americana*, Puritan historian, Cotton Mather, termed the incident an accident. Nathaniel Philbrick, however, raises questions about whether her drowning may not have been entirely unintentional. He cites ample cause for despair on her part. She had not seen her son in four months and had witnessed the deaths of other passengers, including seven year old Jasper More. Philbrick speculates that separation from John, the absence of her husband, the death of the More boy and the suffering of others may have caused considerable consternation.

(3) Considering the time of year, Provincetown must have appeared to be what was later characterized as, "a naked and barren place." It was not nearly as hospitable and quaint as it now appears. All that would have been visible were endless sand dunes and scrub trees, not exactly the lush agricultural plantation site the Pilgrims were hoping to find. Neither was there an apparent source of fresh drinking water. The relative security of Holland and the religious oppression in England may not have seemed so bad to people looking at Provincetown just as winter was approaching. In any event, young John Bradford, who had effectively been orphaned several months before by his parent's departure, was now without a mother.

As was the practice with those who lost spouses over the horrible winter to follow, survival and the need to preserve community led to the marriage of William Bradford and Alice Southworth, a widow, in 1623. Alice had arrived aboard the *Anne* that year. The Bradfords and the Southworths had been friends in London so it seemed natural for their marriage to be arranged after her husband died. In addition to three children of their own, William adopted Alice's two sons. His household also included three non-related adoptees. We cannot assume that all of Plymouth's blended families lived in peace and harmony with one another. When John finally arrived there at age eleven, he had clearly been displaced in his father's burgeoning household. Nathaniel Morton, a stepson, became William Bradford's protege and right hand man, in contrast to John, the governor's natural son. Philbrick says that John, "drifted, eventually moving to Norwich, Connecticut--about as far away from his famous father as it was possible for a New Englander to get." (3)

Norwich was on the frontier of English settlement in those days, surrounded by several Native American tribes. It was

settled by people from the Connecticut Colony, Saybrook, and Plymouth Colony residents looking for new opportunities. This writer's ancestors were among those that left the overcrowded and depleted environs of Cape Cod in search of land in Norwich. One can only imagine the the conflicted emotions, disappointment, and rejection experienced by John Bradford upon his arrival in Plymouth Colony.

William Bradford's written accounts are often known as much for what they don't tell us as what they do say. What we know is that John eventually surfaced in Duxbury around 1645. Later he was in Marshfield and served as a deputy to the General Court from both places. He married Martha Bourne of Marshfield, but had no children. In pondering why John left the "old colony" to brave the Mohegan wilderness, Francis Caulkens feels that it was in large part due to his frequent contact with Jonathon Brewster. We must remember that most of the English speakers in Plymouth knew each other and had extensive family connections that they maintained over the years. The simple fact is that there were relatively few white people in New England at the time, despite the "great migration" to the Bay Colony in 1630. Brewster's prospects had improved greatly through his trade with Native Americans along Long Island Sound and the Connecticut River. It has been speculated that one of the boats he owned transported John Holmes and the prefabricated trading post brought from Plymouth to Windsor in 1633. He no doubt, encouraged John Bradford to relocate. It is safe to assume that for John, the Plymouth area offered little in the way of emotional connection. One gets the sense that he needed a fresh start. We know that by 1659 he owned a house lot and pasture land in Norwich. Unfortunately Jonathon Brewster died before John Bradford's arrival. John's farm in Duxbury was sold by "John Bradford, gentleman" to Christopher

Wadsworth in 1664. His will was exhibited in 1676 so we must assume he met his demise prior that occurrence. His widow married her neighbor, Lt. Thomas Tracy, a man who also had Plymouth connections. (2)

When we read the available historical record we can only conjecture about the emotions that accompanied the facts. The Bradford's were obviously not the only *Mayflower* family to suffer adversity and tragedy. There is, however, a certain poignancy to their story. William had lost a wife and been disconnected from his son before assuming the awesome mantle of responsibility associated with becoming

Governor. In the midst of extreme crisis following John Carver's death, he now bore the onus of caring for the spiritual and physical well being of the colony's inhabitants. John, on the other hand, spent his formative years without parents. He then had to deal with the heartbreak of feeling as though he never quite fit in, even after reunifying with his father. Because life offers few alternatives, both men carried on and contributed to the development of the country we now live in. William Bradford's grave bears the Latin inscription translated as, "What our forefathers with so much difficulty secured, do not basely relinquish."



[ (1) Brown, Mary F.; *Plymouth's Trading House at Windsor, CT*; Nutmeg Gratings, vol. 35, Number 1; March 2015; pgs. 12 &13]

[(2) Caulkens, Francis Manwaring; *History of Norwich, CT: from it's possession by the Indians, to the year 1866*; Hartford, CT 1866; pgs.28-47; pg. 169; pgs. 211-213]

[(3) Philbrick, Nathaniel; *Mayflower, A story of Courage, Community, and War*;Penguin Books; New York; 2006 ; pgs.17,23,76,&187



## **Welcome Our New Nutmeg Gratings Editors**

Randall Russell and Kerry Comisky have volunteered to become the new editors of our venerable newsletter. They have wonderful ideas for future issues and welcome input from our readers. We are also still searching for a photographer. Richard Sargent, a guest at our latest meeting jumped in to fill the bill in April. Do we have someone who usually attends the meetings that would step up to a permanent basis?



## **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**.

## Congratulations To Our New Officers

Donald Studley and Joan Prentice were sworn in as Assistants at the October, 2016 meeting



### New Item Available

This 2020 license plate frame is available for sale on our on-line store at <http://www.ctmayflower.org/store.php>  
The price is \$15.

Check out the other wonderful items that promote our 2020 logo.



***Introducing a new segment to Nutmeg Gratings called:***

***“SUNDAY DRIVE”***



Do you know of a great place to see that would be of general interest to our members and is within a reasonable driving distance from anywhere in Connecticut? We would like to introduce a new segment called “Sunday Drive”

We need your input for “Sunday Drive” to be a success. Please provide us with your suggestions for local, off the beaten path, historically interesting places to see and send them to us so we can share them with our membership.

Like did you know that the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford has a 17<sup>th</sup> century cradle made in Plymouth believed to belong to the Fuller family? Or visit the East Haddam Congregational Church yard to see the gravestone of Colonial African American slave turned prominent businessman, Venture Smith. His gravestone was carved by John Isham, one of the premier stone carvers of his day and to honor Smith, Isham carved the death angel with African American features. It doesn't need to be a big venue, just a neat thing to see. We can't wait to hear your suggestions so we can share them and then pack some snacks, put the dog in the back seat and take a Sunday drive.

# Gathering Memories



## October Meeting 2016





Dear Friends,

Please help the Connecticut Mayflower Scholarship Fund grow by using these coupons. These coupons are to memorialize or honor someone. When your contribution is received, an appropriate card will be sent to the designated person acknowledging your gift. No mention is made of the amount, only the fact that a contribution has been received.

All checks are made out to CSMD Scholarship Fund and all money is placed in the scholarship fund. Please consider using these coupons for the next funeral or occasion to honor a friend, relative or yourself. This is a forever gift as only the interest on the scholarship endowment fund may be used and the fund will grow in perpetuity.

**A MEMORIAL...A TRIBUTE**

To commemorate or celebrate a life event....

Birthday                       Retirement  
 Anniversary                 Promotion  
 Death                             Other \_\_\_\_\_

(specify)

In Memory/Tribute of: \_\_\_\_\_

Presented by: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledgement card will be sent to next of kin or honoree:

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

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*An appropriate card will be sent.*

Check made out to Connecticut Mayflower Society Scholarship Fund

Send to:

Mr. David Grant  
2 Sybil Creek Pl  
Branford, CT 06405

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## A Word about Governor Brown's Crazy Adventures

It was suddenly so quiet all you could hear was the sound of the water smacking against the side of the ship and the invariable heated dispute between a couple of gulls that took umbrage with each other's assumed entitlement to an unfortunate sea creature. Even the traffic on the road had died to a sporadic car or two and the tourist crowds that had just minutes before crammed the Mayflower II's deck from one end to the other, were just gone. The Mayflower II was closed for the evening. The visitors were thanked, told to watch their step leaving the ship and were reminded what time the ship would open tomorrow if they wished to come back and visit again. The crowds left but I stayed with the sudden quiet. My husband and I, and a few other lucky people, would be sleeping on board the iconic ship, courtesy of the big, think outside the box, imagination of our governor. Governor Brown's enthusiasm for these adventures says she knows what it feels like to be a descendant and she wants us to feel it too.

Vicky Oman, who will be speaking at our April luncheon, once asked a bunch of us during one of our stay over adventures that very question. "What does it feel like to be a descendant?" Well it's kind of like this. After us Mayflower sleepover adventurers had all settled in, we were encouraged to roam the ship. You didn't have to tell me twice so off I went to explore. I came upon the captain's quarters and was just about to step inside to take a peek when I found one of my fellow sleepover guests just sitting there, staring off into space with a slight smile on her face. I quickly ducked behind the wall because I didn't want to disturb her but watched her for a few seconds smiling to myself. I knew the look.

I actually could have gone inside. She wouldn't have even noticed me, because she wasn't there. She was in 1620 with her Mayflower grandparents, listening as they told her their story, not with words but through the smell of the musty hull wafting up from below deck, the creak of the boat, the call of the sea birds and the glow of the setting sun filtering into the room. That's what it's like to be a Mayflower descendant and that's what Mary's adventures do. The adventures provide you an opportunity to be as close to your Pilgrim ancestors as you can possibly get.

So you don't think these adventures are for you. When you go on these adventures you aren't going to Plymouth Plantation or the Mayflower II for the umpteenth time like you did all those other times with all the tourists. You are going to the 1620s to visit your kin. And all those things you are sure will make you miserable, like it will be too hot or too cold or raining or too uncomfortable to sleep, or you worry how far away are the bathrooms, the mosquitos or what if you don't like the food, or feeling silly in the clothes will dissolve away and become meaningless the minute you sit or wander in the quiet as the sun sets, dressed in your ancestor's clothes and their stories are revealed to you through all of your senses.

So Adventurers.... Mary wants to hear your ideas.

If you are intrigued and you have an idea for an adventure, let us or Mary know. Keep in mind that it must be reasonably affordable to a broad base of people and relatively amenable to people's work schedules. Also keep in mind that while it isn't imperative the adventure be appropriate for children, more members will be able to participate if the adventure is child friendly. Please keep the ideas coming. Celebrating being a descendant doesn't have to be relegated to twice a year. Send your adventurous ideas to:

Randall Russell via [nutmegarchive01@yahoo.com](mailto:nutmegarchive01@yahoo.com). Or Kerry Comisky via [kakjcomisky@att.net](mailto:kakjcomisky@att.net)

## **We would love all of you to participate in your Newsletter!**

This newsletter belongs to all of us. If you have ideas about layout, editing, writing, and photography for this publication, we would love to hear from you. If you have the interest and a little time, your assistance would be most welcome.

### **We are seeking your submissions.**

*Your ancestral stories are the stories of us all*

During the course of researching our various genealogies or reading history pertinent to Plymouth Colony, most of us have come across some very interesting pieces of information. We think that the newsletter can be an excellent forum for sharing vignettes, family stories, analysis, little-known facts, folklore, humor, and other tidbits.

### *Perhaps...*

You have a story about a smuggler, a farmer, or possibly a seafarer? How about a clergyman, a goodwife accused of witchcraft? A clergyman ancestor who accused a goodwife of witchcraft, a brave soldier or maybe a politician... a governor, a senator or a mayor in your line? An ancestor who fared well... or not so well in a duel? A Saint or Stranger?

*OR*

Can you shed light on how resources were shared, land was allotted, or how subsequent generations fared as they spread out from Plymouth? If it would be of general interest to our membership, we would love to hear about it. If you would like to send something in please contact us at Kerry Comisky via **kakjcomisky@att.net** or Randall Russell via **nutmegarchive01@yahoo.com**. We have a few guidelines we would like to share with you beforehand. We hope to hear from you!

### **PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN OUR THIRD GENERATION SURVEY!!!!!!!**

We are asking you to review the records of your lineage and tell us where the **third** generation of your Pilgrim ancestors physically resided. We would like to track the diffusion of these folks as they branched out from Plymouth. The results will give us some idea of how far people moved over that period of time. Did they move to Cape Cod, Maine, Connecticut, or just another part of Massachusetts, for example? This little project shouldn't take up much of your time and could prove interesting. Depending on the response, we would like to provide you some feedback, perhaps in graphic form. Kindly email your responses to: Randall Russell, **nutmegarchive01@yahoo.com** or Kerry Comisky, **kakjcomisky@att.net**

**GOOD WIVES**  
*Image and Reality in the Lives of Women in Northern New England 1650-1750*  
Laurel Thatcher Ulrich



A Book Review by Randall Russell

We've seen women's seventeenth century gravestone epitaphs. They are replete with descriptors like, Holiness, prayerfulness, Zeal, Prudence, meekness, patience, self-denial, humility, diligence, charity, and many more. We picture a woman of that era at a spinning wheel or cooking at the hearth. These ideas commemorate an idealized image commonly accepted by that society. Those ideals, however, transcend the topic of personality. In this excellent book Laurel Ulrich attempts to answer the question, "What were these women really like?"

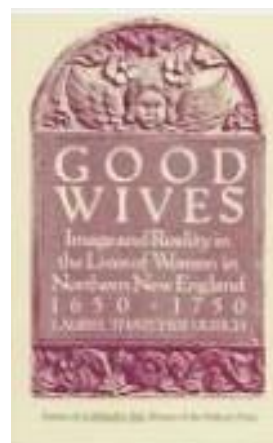
The author's search for information was somewhat daunting. Prior to 1750 there are few if any, diaries penned by women. Other than some captive's narratives and some poetry, evidence of female life had to be dug out of sermons, court records, church records, paintings, embroideries, gravestones and the private papers of husbands and sons.

Don't let the dates in the subtitle concern you, the conditions she describes were easily applicable to to first and second generations in Plymouth County. Ulrich succeeds in piecing together a highly nuanced picture of the multiples roles women were required to fill in those times. Sometimes "Goody" Smith was housewife and sometimes "Goody" Jones had to act as deputy husband, looking after the family's business concerns. On other occasions she was

called upon to be consort, mother, mistress, neighbor, and Christian. During periods of war she often had to be the heroine.

Readers will learn why women had a child on an average of, every two and a half years. They will find out about wills and property rights, politics, education, culture, religion, and law.

*GOOD WIVES* is easily readable but not the work of a lightweight. It was extensively researched. Ms Ulrich, a former pulitzer winner, appends approximately thirty pages of reference notes. Originally published in 1980 and again in 1991, it is still available on line.



The book is: ***GOOD WIVES*** By Laurel Ulrich, 1st Vintage Books edition.

## Infanticide or Post Partum Psychosis?

*The case of Alice Bishop, 1648*

Randall Russell



On July 22, 1648 Rachel Ramsden dropped by the home Richard Bishop to visit with her neighbor, Alice (Allis) Bishop. At the time, only Alice and her four year-old daughter Martha Clark (by Alice's first husband, George Clark) were at home. When Ramsden left to fetch buttermilk for Alice from Goodwife Winslow, the child, Martha was sleeping in an upstairs loft.

Upon returning, Rachel found Alice, "sad and dumpish." She also saw blood on the floor beneath the ladder. When Rachel asked what had happened, Alice just pointed to the upstairs. Rachel was understandably frightened and summoned help. By the time an armed posse of twelve reached the residence they found Alice hysterical and the child dead, her throat slashed several times. They also found a bloody knife. Alice, reportedly, had no recollection of what had happened. Later she felt that she had killed her child because after noticing the blood and looking in the bed, she no longer saw the child there. Alice then reportedly confessed to five of the twelve Plymouth notables at the scene, that she had indeed, murdered the child and was sorry for it. (1)

A murder indictment was handed down by

Governor Bradford, Captain Standish, Thomas Prence, Timothy Hatherle, and William Thomas in October 1648. Thirteen other men found the bill of indictment true and the case went to what was then called a petty jury.

(Disclosure: This writer's ancestor, Wm. Mericke, was a member of the jury) Alice Bishop was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged. (2), (3) She was, in all likelihood, executed soon after the trial, on October fourth. While the exact location of her death and burial are unknown (some believe Scituate), it is probable that Alice Bishop was the first woman hanged in new colonies. She was one of eleven people hanged for murder in Massachusetts between 1630-1692. Four of those hanged were women, three of whom had killed their own children.(4) These should not be confused with those put to death for witchcraft.

While some disagree, one theory has it that Alice was the daughter of Christopher Martin and Marie Prower, both of whom died when she was a young child. The Mayflower Society reportedly does not recognize Alice as Christopher Martin's daughter. That is, however, a matter to be resolved in another forum.

In an era when most people are aware of much-publicized infanticide cases, the Bishop case raises many questions. For example, why were the many legal phases of the trial all handled by men? Why was no defense mounted on Alice's behalf? Was hanging the only fair punishment?

In the medieval era children were deemed to be chattel or property of their father (pater familius). Parents could do with them as they so pleased. By the time our ancestors arrived in Plymouth attitudes had changed. Society now felt that it had a vested interest in the welfare of children, an interest that could override the will of the parents. While considered primitive by today's standards, laws were crafted to offer basic protections for children. English society no longer

allowed parents to kill their kids. The law was clear and concise. If you were adjudicated guilty of murder, you were almost always put to death. Plymouth did not have a penal system, so the notion of serving a life term in prison simply did not exist.

During a time when a belief in witchcraft was still widespread and Psychology was an unknown concept, mounting a Post-Partum Psychosis defense was inconceivable. Treatment and medication were not options. Our ancestors did not have a nuanced view of crime and punishment. You were either guilty or innocent. While she was tried in scrupulous accordance with the law, it was a foregone conclusion that Alice Bishop would hang.



## Notes

(1) Stratton, Eugene Aubrey. *Plymouth County it's history and People*, 1620-1691. Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry Pub., 1986 pp159-60

(2) The "*Records of the colony of New Plymouth in New England*" edited by Nathaniel B. Shurtleiff (Boston 1855) volume two of Court Orders (1641-1651)

(3) Plymouth Colony Records-Court Orders Volume I, pp 132, 3 &4

(4) Edwin Powers, *Crime and Punishment in early Massachusetts 1620-1692* Boston Beacon Press 1966 pp 287-290



## April 29<sup>th</sup> Program

Join Plimoth Plantation Museum Educator and seasoned role-player Vicki Oman for a lively performance as Elizabeth Hopkins and Q&A on the women of the Mayflower and their humble contributions in changing the course of history in the United States. You'll be transported to the year 1620, learn the real story of the first Thanksgiving, and how these remarkable women transformed early Plimoth Colony. As the Director of Public

Programs & School Services, Vicki Oman educates students, families and professional groups about life in 17th-century New England. She holds a Masters Degree in Theological Studies from Boston University and frequently teaches about post-Reformation history and the faith of the Pilgrims. Since joining Plimoth Plantation in 2008, Vicki has represented many colonial women and taken part in a variety of media campaigns including an innovative shoot with scholastic films, which is shown in classrooms across the world.

### GENERAL MEETING    APRIL 29, 2016 SOCIAL HOUR AT 11 - LUNCHEON & MEETING AT NOON

Our luncheon will be held at **Radisson**, 100 Berlin Rd., Cromwell, CT 06416 (860-665-2000)

**Directions:** Exit 21 from I 91

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#### PLEASE CHOOSE ONE FOR EACH ATTENDEE:

<input type="checkbox"/> Pan Seared Chicken Breast, \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Mesquite Grilled Salmon, \$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Grilled 8oz Sirloin, \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Harvest Pasta, \$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Total \$ Enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Fingers, \$12 (12 & under)

**There will be a cash bar. Nonalcoholic punch and complimentary cheese tray will be served during the social hour.**

**Please send this completed form and payment (checks made out to Mayflower Society of CT) by April 13, 2017 to: Beverly Warner, 243 Lowell Davis Road, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255**

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

**New Member?**

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

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

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

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