



Autumn Gratings

June 2015

Volume 35, Number 2

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Excitement and sunshine are in the air. A small group from CSMD and Friends of the State Archaeologist took a wonderful hike in Windsor Meadows State Park. Mary Agliardo has an article about the day and some photos in this issue. Brian Jones, the State Archaeologist, took many soil samples with a boring tool and found an elevation along the original mouth of the Farmington River that seems to fit the bill as to a possible site of the Windsor Trading Post. It is significantly south of the Loomis Chaffee School property where it was once believed to be. As noted previously, the course of the river has changed. In June, some students will grid the area and use metal detectors to locate items such as nails, brass buttons, etc. During the week of July 20th, a dig will be manned by FOSA members. You can join by going to their website, filling in the form and sending along \$25. As much as we are praying for rain for our gardens, we have to hope for a dry week then.

There has been a new facet to the Brewster component of the Windsor Trading Post. It seems that Jonathan Brewster was very involved in alchemy. This is known through letters he exchanged with Isaac Allerton. Our recent visit with Elder Brewster from Plimoth Plantation (at the April meeting) gave us many interesting bits of information about him, his family and the congregation of Separatists who settled here.

The Education and Program Department at Plimoth Plantation are planning a Connecticut

Day at the Plantation, *Mayflower II* and the Grist Mill in 2016. We will give you as much advance notice as we can. This will be an excellent opportunity to visit these remarkable sites and immerse yourself into the 17th century life of your ancestors.



I hope you have found a copy of Nick Bunker's *Making Haste from Babylon*. It is a wonderful presentation of recent research into the economic, social and cultural influences on the Pilgrims. We are planning more reading suggestions for you and hopefully more book discussion groups in the near future.

The date of our fall meeting has been changed to October 17th. Please note this on your calendars and plan on attending.

Thank you to all who donate items to the raffle table at our meetings, as well as those who buy the tickets. The past two meetings have seen the raffle raise just about \$1000 for scholarships. I really appreciate your support in this endeavor to assist young people in their educational pursuits. Thank you very much.

It is a pleasure to serve as your Governor.

Mary Brown

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NEW MEMBERS APPROVED

Descendant of John Alden

Kate Hackney Williams, Thomaston, CT

Descendants of William Brewster

Gretchen Caulfield, Westport, CT

Bradley Brian Park, Preston, CT

Rebecca Ann Park, Preston, CT

Martha Badger Simpson, Windsor, CT

Descendants of Stephen Hopkins

Dale Robert Banks, Groton, CT

Rosemary Zarba, Mystic, CT

Descendant of George Soule

Jason Andrew Dolce, Old Lyme, CT

Descendant of Myles Standish

John David Lange, Weston, CT

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Gilmore, December 2014

Lincoln Young, April 2015

James Newton, April 2015

Elizabeth Mazzola, April 2015

Patricia Carpenter, May 2015

Our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of our deceased members. May God be with them on their final

2020 Logo Merchandise

The 2020 shop is up and running on our website ctmayflower.org.

A.	Coffee Mug, 15 ounce	\$ 15	E.	Pen, Ballpoint	\$ 5
B.	Water Bottle, 24 ounce	\$ 5	F.	Lapel Pin	\$ 10
C.	Bumper Sticker, 3 X 5 in.	2 / \$ 5	G.	Money Clip	\$ 10
D.	Car Magnet, 3 X 5 in.	\$ 5	H.	Tie Tack	\$ 10



Orders will be processed quickly. If anyone wants to order the car magnets or bumper stickers, they can save the postal charge online by sending a check for \$5 made out to CT Mayflower Society, along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Mail to Bill Warner, Box 232, Thompson, CT 06277.



We have added a new tote bag to our on-line store.

It's large, 15 x 13 inches, made of polypropylene, with 20" double reinforced handles, an extra-large 10" gusset, and a sturdy PE board bottom. Color is pink with red logo.

It's available for a donation of \$5, plus S&H, to our scholarship fund.

2015 Scholarship Winners

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Connecticut awards three annual scholarships of \$1,620 each. Any high school senior graduating from a CT secondary school, public or private, and who is a resident of CT is eligible for these scholarships. One need not, however, be a member of the CT Society of Mayflower Descendants. With reference to the Mrs. Henry Griggs Isham and Bernice Andrews Livingston Rieg scholarships, special consideration will be given to applicants who are either members or junior members of the CT Society, or who are the child or grandchild of one of our members. These applicants, unlike the Jordan Konov Scholarship, need not be CT residents. The Konov scholarship is open to CT residents only. Academic achievement, extra-curricular involvement, and community service are considered in the review of each application.

Following are the scholarship winners for 2015.



Alex Darche: "I'd like to thank everyone here for giving me this scholarship. As a soon to be University of Rhode Island engineering student, this money will really help me further my education. I would also like to thank my family for teaching me who I am and who I came from, and showing me how to proud of my heritage."



Anna Brewster: "My name is Anna Brewster, and I live in Lebanon. I will be attending the University of Connecticut for Theater Design and Technology, with a focus on scenic design.

"I am so grateful to the Society of Mayflower Descendants for this generous scholarship, especially since I am not a member. The gift will make my goals of working on Broadway and in motion pictures much easier to reach."

(Continued on the next page)



Nathaniel Bidwell: “I’d like to start off with a word of thanks to the society. Every bit helps in the process to pay for a college tuition, and everyone here must know by now how daunting that challenge can be at times. I’m a senior at William H. Hall High School and will be graduating in just a few weeks, off to start my summer job as a second-year ocean lifeguard to further help pay for my college experience. I find it very important while pursuing this goal to remain upbeat, lest the weight of the challenge crush me. It is a terrible thing to fall victim to yourself so close to your goal.

“I am a fairly recent member of the Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendants, and I am proud to finally be able to say so. The help that this Society is giving me in awarding this scholarship is tremendous, and I cannot fully express my gratitude to them. I am descended from a man known as John Howland, famously known for falling overboard during a storm; thankfully, he was pulled back aboard and lived out the rest of his natural life. Otherwise I wouldn’t be here.

“When I begin my college experience, I ultimately plan on studying aerospace and all the engineering aspects that go with it, in the hopes of someday assisting a team to build one of the first ships to allow us our first pilgrimage to the outer reaches of our solar system. To begin this journey, I plan to build myself a solid foundation on math and design. For me, this will begin next fall at Saint Michael’s College, where I will be enrolling in their 3-2 program. This program will allow me to graduate in five years with a BA from St. Mike’s and a BS in engineering from the University of Vermont. After attaining these degrees, my plan is to continue on at the Florida Institute of Technology for a Masters in Aerospace Engineering.”



MEET CHRISTINA GREEN!

Although Christina is not yet old enough to become a member of the CTSMD, she has already done an enormous amount of research into her family tree. Christina undertook an independent study project on her heritage, which not only turned up information on her *Mayflower* ancestors, but also connected her to the famous educator and author Noah Webster, of West Hartford, CT (the “Webster” in the Merriam-Webster dictionary)! It just goes to show that you never know what will jump out when you turn the pages of the past!

Q: First, please tell us a little bit about yourself (age, grade, school, interests, clubs, favorite subjects, etc.)

My name is Christina Green. I’m a senior at Conard High School in West Hartford, Connecticut. I’m 17 years old and am enrolled to attend The University of Vermont next year. At school, I’m on the varsity lacrosse and swim teams. I’m also captain of the mock trial team, which I greatly enjoy. My favorite subject is either history or calculus.

Q: How did you first become interested in family history and research?

I’ve always been very interested in my family lineage because I have descendants who lived in West Hartford many generations before my arrival.

Q: How did you get started?

I got started by contacting my father’s cousin, Tony Allerton, who is in the Mayflower Society. From there my father and I were able to obtain, from the Connecticut Mayflower Society, a list of the names, birth and death dates of my ancestors through the generations.

Q: Did anyone help you to learn about how to do genealogical research?

I had the help of my former AP United States History teacher, Dr. Tracey Wilson, who served as my advisor and is one of the West Hartford Town Historians.



Q: Who was your *Mayflower* ancestor?

William Bradford

Q: How did you find out about him?

I found about him through my family as well as the Mayflower Society.

Q: What have you learned about him?

I learned that he was the Governor of Plimoth Colony as well as that he wrote an extremely influential book called *Of Plimoth Plantation*.

Q: What were some interesting or surprising things you found out?

Some of my ancestors lived in very big houses. I find it interesting that I ended up in the same town where many of my distant relatives came

from.

Q: Have you met any distant relatives due to your search?

Not yet!

Q: Is your search out of curiosity or is there a “bigger” reason?

Knowing who you are means knowing where you came from.

Q: What do you plan to do with the information you collect?

I have created a Google site where I have organized all of my research: <https://sites.google.com/site/cmggenealogy/>

Q: Did you come across any “snags” that you had to overcome?

Yes, while in Waterbury, CT, looking at birth records I discovered that there was no official birth record of my great-grandmother. Fortunately, my father had known her birthdate from his family.

Q: Please tell us about the rest of your family and if any of them are involved in the Society.
My father plans to apply for membership. Some cousins are already interested.

Q: Do you have plans to continue with your research, perhaps with other branches of your family?
Yes, definitely. I would like to trace other

branches of my father’s family. I may end up a history major in college on a pre-law track.

Q: Please tell us something fun or interesting about yourself!

Most people tell me they like to be around me because I am full of good ideas and optimism. I also like practical jokes.

Thank you so much for your time and knowledge, Christina! Good luck with your studies at the University of Vermont; they are fortunate to have such an interesting young lady on their campus! We are sure your ancestors would be very proud of you.

The search for Plymouth’s Trading-House at Windsor has begun!

Mary Agliardo

As Mary Brown wrote in the March 2015 *Nutmeg Gratings*, the trading house was built by our Pilgrim ancestors in 1633 and stayed in business until 1639 as a means of repaying the huge debts to the English company that sponsored their voyage. The trading-house dealt in beaver and otter skins.

The location of the trading-house is unknown, although a marker was placed (and subsequently moved) on the grounds of the Loomis-Chaffee school in Windsor. Archaeological digs have not revealed evidence of the trading-house there, however.

Dr. Brian Jones, state archeologist, is working with us to explore the exact location of the trading-house. Friday, May 8, was our first foray into the project. Dr. Jones thought that the logical place for a trading-house might be near the confluence of the two rivers, the Farmington and the Connecticut, on a rise high enough to protect it from flooding, and convenient to traffic on the two major rivers.

A group that included four society members, Mary Brown, Ellen Swayne,

Randy Russell, and I, walked approximately a mile and a half into the woods along the Connecticut River over sometimes challenging terrain. The area was thickly wooded, although a path was easily followed. Besides tall trees and vines, we saw wildflowers, animal tracks, and a beaver dam probably similar to those seen by our ancestors as they went on a similar search in 1633.

Dr. Jones tested the soil in several locations until we came to a rise overlooking the river. The soil there was dry and looked like what an archeologist might expect to see in an area used in the 1630s.

That soil confirmed that his hypothesis was worth pursuing. He marked the location on his GPS app and set the next step: metal detection, which he expects to take place in late June. Archeological testing of the site will take place July 20th through the 24th as part of the Friends of the Office of State Archeology field school.

For a complete back-story on this project, please see Mary Brown’s article in the March 2015 *Nutmeg Gratings*.

LOOKING FOR THE LOCATION OF AN OLD TRADING POST



For the Kids ...



There's much to see at Windsor Meadows State Park. The forest floor is alive with diversity. Look for the following in the photos:

Poison Ivy

Chickweed

Lichen

Trillium

Violet

Jack-in-the-Pulpit

Fiddlehead Ferns



Things You See in the Woods

There are 20 hidden words in this puzzle. Can you find them?



beaver

deer

poisonivy

squirrels

trillium

birds

leaves

rabbits

streams

vines

chickweed

lichen

raccoon

tracks

violets

dams

nests

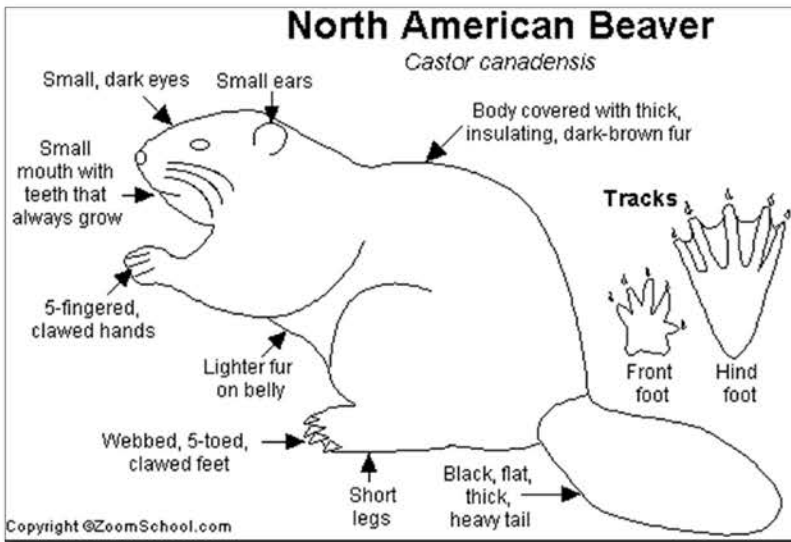
river

trees

wildflowers



Beavers have been busy in Windsor Meadows State Park, doing what busy beavers do: building a dam, gnawing trees, and leaving their big tracks in the mud.



Period Clothing

Mary Brown

Many people are asking about period clothing in anticipation of 2020. Ellen Swayne and I are preparing directions for outfits. This way you can have a whole outfit for the next BOA meeting or your own state meeting. There are a few commercial patterns and we are investigating them to find the easiest. Several of your clothing items can be quickly and easily made at home. We suggest buying your coif (white hair covering) and felt hat from Plimoth Plantation.

We have started with the easiest to assemble, the apron.

The Apron

The preferred material is osnaburg, but linen, muslin or a similar fabric can be used. You will need a piece about 33 inches wide and 36 inches long and about 1 ½ yards of twill tape or bias tape for the belt.

1. To finish the sides of the apron, turn under and pin ¼ inch on both 36 inch sides.
2. Iron this flat.
3. Now turn each side under ½ inch and pin in place.
4. Iron flat.
5. Stitch down. This can be done with a running stitch on your sewing machine and can be a fairly long stitch. If you are doing this by hand, use a hem stitch.
6. To complete the hem, do the same steps (1-5) across the bottom.
7. The top of the apron is addressed by turning under ¼ inch across the top, pin and iron flat.
8. Turn this edge under two inches, pin and iron flat.
9. You will now use your running machine stitch along the ¼ inch edge and also across the apron along the very top edge ¼ inch in from the edge. This makes a casing for your belt.
10. If you are hand sewing, a running stitch can be used to make the casing.
11. Use about 1 ½ yards of twill tape or bias tape for the belt.
12. With a large safety pin to guide the front end, feed it through the casing.
13. Remove safety pin and tie a knot in the end of each side of the tape to stop unraveling.

The Skirt

Color of fabric should be solid. Black is not advised. Jill Hall, in communicating back in 2003 said, "Natural shades are always safe; also browns, blues, sandy pinks, brick, brownish orange, olive green, almost any shade of yellow including greenish yellows." She suggests avoiding fire engine red, most purples, and pure black. Grey-purple is acceptable, according to Jill. Black was a difficult and expensive color to achieve with available dyes so was not for everyday use. All dyes were vegetable based and prone to fading, so muted shades were common. Clothes were colorful but not vibrant. Some cloth

was undyed and therefore white or gray, the natural color. Stripes are acceptable, but not a print or plaid fabric.



Photo by Gretchen Darche at Plimoth Plantation

The preferred material for the women's skirt is lightweight wool, but a heavy cotton such as sail cloth or similar fabric can be used. We realize that you may not want to wear wool in the warmer areas or in centrally heated facilities. You will need a piece of fabric about 40 inches wide (or whatever the bolt width is) and 2 ½ yards long and about 1 ½ yards of twill tape or bias tape for the drawstring.

Directions for a drawstring waist skirt.

1. Cut the fabric from selvage to selvage for two equal size pieces.
2. The top of the skirt is addressed by turning under ¼ inch across the top, pin and iron flat.
3. Turn this edge under two inches, pin and iron flat.
You will now use your running machine stitch along the ¼ inch pressed edge and also across the waist band along the very top edge ¼ inch in from the edge.
This makes a casing for your waist drawstring.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 on the second piece of fabric.
5. If you are hand sewing, a running stitch can be used to make the casing.
6. Pin the two pieces together along the selvage sides with material right sides facing.
7. Stitch a 5/8 inch seam leaving four inch openings from the waist down.
8. Press seams open.
9. Turn under ¼ inch along bottom edge, pin and press flat.
10. Determine length to just above your ankle. Turn the hem edge to this length, pin and press.
11. Hem stitch the hem in place.
12. Use about 1 ½ yards of twill tape or bias tape for the waist tie.
13. With a large safety pin to guide the front end, feed it through the casing of both front and back.
14. Remove safety pin and tie a knot in the end of each side of the tape to stop unraveling.
15. You now have a drawstring skirt with openings at the sides for a pocket (see a later issue).

If you would like to try a pleated waist skirt, please contact either Ellen or Mary at eswayne@comncawst.net or mbrown@ct.metrocast.net

Men's Breeches



Cover of NEHGS magazine Dec. 2014

Connecticut SMD Corresponding Secretary Donna Mangiafico has stitched an outfit for her husband Paul. She used Simplicity Pattern 4059 for the breeches and had success. Paul looks authentic in his outfit.

4059



Andrea Schewe

We will feature directions for additional items of clothing in subsequent issues. (FYI: the model on the pattern cover is not Mr. Mangiafico.)

The Society of Mayflower Descendants
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