



# The Virginia Mayflower

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Virginia

VOLUME 50

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NUMBER 1

## Message from the Governor

*Greetings Mayflower Cousins,*

Happy spring to you! For me, the arrival of spring is invigorating. The trees unfurl their leaves, spring flowers peek out at us, and the warm air caresses us after a long cold winter. Along with the arrival of spring is the anticipation we have knowing we will see each other soon as our Spring Luncheon is just around the corner.

I look forward to seeing you at this year's Spring Luncheon at Belmont Estate in Fredericksburg on May 6, 2023. All Virginia Mayflower Society members and guests are invited to this meeting. We will be joined by our keynote speaker, Kate LaPrad, Deputy Director, Special Projects & Strategic Partnerships at Plimoth Patuxet Museums. She is based in Washington, DC and holds an MA from Winterthur-University of Delaware Program in American Material Culture. I urge you to make your reservation as soon as possible to ensure your place at the table. With the ability to make online reservations, the number of members desiring to attend meetings has increased significantly. Our cap for the spring meeting is 100 attendees.

Since the implementation of our updated web site powered by Wild Apricot, we have made several process changes. Please read the Wild Apricot update found in this newsletter that outlines what the system can do for you.



Lee Hardin Woody  
Governor

One of the most important changes to be aware of involves the dues collection process. If you have an email on file with us, you received your 2023 dues notice electronically last fall. If you do not have one on file, you received your notice through the USPS mail service. If you have already paid your dues, we thank you. If you have not, it is not too late. You may pay online or you may mail a check made out to Virginia Mayflower Society to Assistant Treasurer, Jan Sullivan. Her address is: 6113 Bristol Way, Alexandria, VA 22310-4304.

We thank you for your continued commitment to the Virginia Mayflower Society. Through your financial support we can provide a scholarship(s) to high school or college students, engage knowledgeable speakers who discuss our shared history at our biannual luncheons, and to support the General Society's efforts to fund education and historic preservation projects so that our story will continue to be heard.

*Blest be the tie that binds,  
Lee Hardin Woody,  
Virginia Governor*

## 2023 Spring Luncheon Program

### 'From Small Beginnings': A Woman's Life in Colonial New Plymouth

Join Mayflower passenger Priscilla (Mullins) Alden, portrayed by Plimoth Patuxet Museums' Kate LaPrad, as she provides insight into women's lives in early New England. Goodwife Alden will describe the transatlantic crossing and the founding of a new Colony, while sharing her thoughts on everything from literacy and marriage to childbirth and building community in colonial America.

#### Biography

Kate LaPrad is Deputy Director, Education and Strategic Partnerships at Plimoth Patuxet Museums, the living history museum of 17th-century New England. In this role, she contributes to museum research, publications, educational outreach and fundraising initiatives. She joined the team at Plimoth in 2010, and has served in her current role since 2017. Previously, she oversaw the interpretive and public programs departments, as well as serving as the grant writer. She is currently based in Washington, DC, where she spends her time trying to expand our conception of American history back before the Revolutionary and federal periods. She holds an MA from the Winterthur-University of Delaware Program in American Material Culture and a BA in history and art history from the University of Delaware.



Kate LaPrad

### Our Spring Luncheon Meeting

will be held  
**Saturday  
May 6, 2023**

at

**The Belmont Estates  
in Fredericksburg, Virginia**

Address and Directions  
on page 11

**Reception & Cocktails 12:00 PM  
Luncheon at 12:45 PM**

Luncheon Reservation Form  
on Page 11

Online Payment or Check  
Must be Received  
by Friday, April 28

## Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Virginia

*Founded January 10, 1950*

### The Board of Assistants

#### OFFICERS

Governor.....	Debra Lee Hardin Woody
Deputy Governor.....	Timothy C. Finton
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Assistant Historian.....	Michael Winslow
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Education.....	Richard Weaver
Hospitality.....	Pam Stickney Pettengell
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Junior Membership.....	Timothy C. Finton
Membership.....	Gerald Dale Sailors
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Mildred Ramos Scholarship.....	Karen Pogoloff
Webmaster.....	James T. Callender

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Secretary General.....	Margaret Averett
Deputy Governor General.....	James Hallett Maloney
Assistant General.....	Debra Lee Hardin Woody
Trustee, Mayflower House Endowment & Pilgrim Trust.....	Mark T. Cox, IV

## Virginia Mayflower Society Spring Luncheon, Fredericksburg, VA

Submitted by John Alden Copenhaver, Assistant Secretary

We are delighted that we were able to reserve Belmont, an 18th century estate, for our spring luncheon.

The May 6, 2023 luncheon will begin with a meet and greet social from 12 - 12:45. We will begin with a delicious Iced Tea Mint Julep, with a nod toward Kentucky Derby Day.

By 12:45, everyone will be seated in the dining room. Following our Pilgrim Pledge and introduction of the head table, lunch will be served beginning at 1:00.

During dessert and coffee, our speaker will begin her presentation followed by officer reports and the Mildred Ramos Scholarship Presentation.

After the luncheon, individual tickets will be available until 5:00 to tour Belmont.

Registrations fill up quickly and the maximum capacity of the facility is 100. It would be wise to register as soon as possible on our website.

Registration information and directions to Belmont Estates can be found on page 11.

### Belmont Estates History

The 18th-century Belmont estate was the country home and studio of prominent portraitist, muralist, and internationally renowned American Impressionist painter Gari Melchers (1860-1932). The house contains Gari and Corinne Melchers' original furnishings and personal art collection. The studio houses over 1600 works by Melchers, and the 27-acre grounds feature restored formal gardens and miles of walking trails. Gari Melchers

Home and Studio (GMHS) is a historic house and art museum which celebrates Gari Melchers' career. Melchers lived and worked at his late 18th-century estate, Belmont, in Falmouth, Virginia, the last sixteen years of his life. The artist's widow, Corinne Lawton Melchers (1880-1955), deeded the property in its entirety to the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1942, providing that it serve as a memorial to her husband's life work and as an art center for the community. Following her death in 1955, the University of Mary Washington assumed management of the property and pursued designation as a National Historic Landmark, which it earned in 1962. In accordance with Mrs. Melchers' will, GMHS opened to the public in October 1975. In 2000

GMHS became a founding member of the Historic Artists' Home and Studios network, a coalition of 44 museums that were once the homes and working studios of American artists. Of those, GMHS is one of the best-preserved, owing to the largest collection of the Melchers' anywhere, his fully furnished home and studio, the artist's personal collection of art, and an extensive archives. In 1994, the Garden Club of Virginia restored the gardens and grounds according to the design plans laid out by the artist and his wife in the early 1920s.



*Virginia Mayflower Society***Compact Day Fall Luncheon Meeting**

November 16, 2022

The Commonwealth Club, Richmond, VA

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Lee Hardin Woody, GSMD-VA Governor. The invocation was given by Captain W. Samuel Williams in the absence of Nancy Barrow, Elder.

- The Pledge to the US Flag and The Pilgrim Pledge was led by Timothy Finton, Deputy Governor.
- The Mayflower Compact was read by Cynthia Edmunds, Assistant Historian.
- The Five Kernels of Corn ceremony was read by Robin Comfort, Assistant Historian.
- All were reminded by Karen Pogoloff-Mildred Ramos Scholarship Chair-to bid on the Silent Auction, already in place.

After a wonderful Thanksgiving themed luncheon, Assistant Secretary John Alden Copenhaver introduced our accomplished speaker and dual Virginia member, Andrew Giles Buckley, who is the producer of *Stephano: The True Story of Shakespeare's Shipwreck*. Andrew has been nominated for two Emmy Awards and is a native of Massachusetts.

The Roll Call of Passengers was done by Historian Debbie Misiag.

The May minutes were approved as published in the last newsletter.

**Reports:****Treasurer's Report** *Janita Sullivan, Assistant Treasurer*

In the absence of the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer Sullivan gave an abbreviated report stating that there is \$51,454.60 in the GSMD-VA checking account, and approximately \$58,000 in other funds.

**Historian's Report** *Debbie Misiag*

Historian Misiag stated that many family members of current members are interested in joining GSMD-VA. The Historian's report detailed the continuing education of the Historians Team, who are working on 90 active applicants. There are another 100 applicants that are inactive, with 17 applications now at Plymouth as of November 10, along with 2 supplementals. Plymouth is now taking about 4 months to approve applications. The Historian also reported that the transition from our old system to google drive is ongoing.

**Webmaster** *Jamie Callender & David Harrity*

There was discussion/open dialogue about the success of the transition from the "Common Database" and VASMD website to Wild Apricot. There have been questions about paying for children's or grandchildren's dues on the website. All of these

concerns will be addressed. Everyone is encouraged to donate on Wild Apricot.

**Junior Membership Report** *Tim Finton*

Deputy Governor Finton reported that there are eight new Junior Members.

**New Business****Governor Lee Woody:**

Governor Woody reported on the September 2022 GSMD Board of Assistants meeting in Minneapolis. She and Brantley Knowles were in attendance. A highlight was that Software development is being worked on which will improve the membership process. There is a launch date of fall 2023. Also, there is a plan for the uploading of nearly 100,000 GSMD member applications to a virtual vault. The Mayflower brand was discussed in depth, as well as updates on historic preservation at the Meeting House and the Mayflower Society House. All are encouraged to attend the GBOA Mayflower Meeting in September 2023 at Plymouth. Information may be found on the GSMD website.

**Counsellor** *Peter Broadbent, Jr, Esq. Constitution & Bylaws Chairman*

Counsellor Broadbent stated that the Constitution & Bylaws changes were printed in the past newsletter and circulated to the membership, having to do with the rotation of assistant historian terms. The Committee recommended the bylaw change and a unanimous voice vote of the membership followed.

**Announcements:****Mildred Ramos Scholarship/Auction**

Karen Pogoloff, Chairman-Thanked all who had donated the wonderful auctions items, and also thanked all who had purchased items. The silent auction raised \$405 and the drawing raised \$96 for a grand total of \$501 to be contributed to the scholarship.

Governor Woody announced that the Spring Meeting will be May 6, 2023 at the Belmont Estate in Fredericksburg, VA, with Kate LaPrad as speaker.

**Old/Unfinished/New Business-none**

Captain Williams gave the Benediction.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Brantley C.B. Knowles,  
Secretary

## Junior Membership Information

Junior Membership in the Virginia Mayflower Society is available to all those with proven lineages from birth to 18 years of age and membership as a Junior may continue up to the age of 25. After Junior Members turn 18, they may apply for regular membership in the Society.

To request junior membership for your children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren, please contact Tim Finton at [tcfinton@msn.com](mailto:tcfinton@msn.com) to notify him you are sponsoring a Junior Member. He will need for you to supply him with the following information:

1. Full name of Applicant
2. Date of birth
3. Place of birth
4. Mayflower Ancestor
5. Full names of parents
6. Contact information for parents, including address, email, and telephone number
7. Full name of Sponsor of the Applicant
8. Sponsor's Virginia and National Membership number
9. Sponsor's contact information, including address, email, and telephone number
10. Sponsor's relationship to the Applicant

The application fee is \$10 per applicant along with the information requested above, so please pay online or mail a check payable to the Virginia Mayflower Society to Assistant Treasurer Janita Sullivan. Her address is 6113 Bristol Way, Alexandria, VA 22310-4304.

When the process is complete, Tim will send the Junior Membership Certificate and other welcome material to the Junior Member at the address of the parents, unless otherwise instructed.

If you are a Junior Member who has reached your 18th birthday, consider becoming a full member by submitting an application. Please contact your Junior Membership sponsor and Historian Debbie Misiag at [historian@virginiamayflower.org](mailto:historian@virginiamayflower.org) for more information about the adult membership process.

## Junior Members' Corner

Submitted by the Education Committee

*Welcome to our Junior Members' Corner. We have received permission from Peggy Marsh, General Society of the Mayflower Society Junior Membership Chair, to reprint this recipe. More activities and crafts as well as this one can be found on the Members Only Section of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants website. Suggested books and other educational resources can be found on the Education Page of the Virginia Mayflower Society website.*

### Mayflower Provisions

Have you ever wondered what our ancestors ate while onboard the *Mayflower*? How did they prepare their food on the long journey? What else did they pack? How did they prepare for the voyage?

Although a cook was part of the crew, he prepared meals for the crew only. Each family was expected to prepare their own meals. It was important to have foods that would not spoil during the voyage such as fruits, peas and beans which were dried ahead of time and brought as part of their provisions. Provisions included not just food, but drink, tools, household items, weapons, and clothing.

The main food was a biscuit-type bread called a ships biscuit. These biscuits were used to thicken soups and could be eaten by the passengers by allowing them to dissolve in one's mouth. Salt was used to preserve meats and fish.

Families packed clothing in carved wooden chests. Inside one would find caps, shirts, waistcoat (a jacket), cloth, stockings, shoes described as, "plain shoes, little shoes, French soles."

*continued on page 5*

## Junior Membership Report

### We Welcome 12 New Junior Members to the Virginia Mayflower Society!

Since the report in the Fall 2022 Newsletter we have welcomed 12 new Junior Members. There are currently 409 Junior Members in the Virginia Society.

Junior Member	Ancestor
Maxwell Michael Snarr	George Soule
Savannah Helen Snarr	George Soule
Ayla Marie Sailors	John Billington
June Elizabeth Diakun	Stephen Hopkins
Ivy Elizabeth Rossman	Stephen Hopkins
Oksanna Callender	William Bradford
Alina Callender	William Bradford
August Sanders	William Bradford
Levi Sanders	William Bradford
Shannon Maloney	Stephen Hopkins
Cary Allen	Stephen Hopkins
Wyatt Maloney	Stephen Hopkins

Submitted by Timothy C. Finton, Deputy Governor and Junior Membership Chair on behalf of the Junior Membership Committee

## Junior Members' Corner ~

### Mayflower Provisions *continued from page 4*

To learn more about what was brought over on the ship by our ancestors, you can see a photo of a rare record of their provisions and read a transcribed summary of key items on the list. Please visit the following website.

<http://mayflowerhistory.com/provision-lists>

This document belongs to the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, and it was written by one of the investors in the Pilgrims' joint-stock company visit:

### Ships Biscuit

The name refers to the hard biscuits that were stored on ships like the *Mayflower* and were a staple of the passengers and crews, especially on 66-day journeys! They were made just like this recipe, from a simple mixture of flour, water and salt, rolled out thinly and baked slowly until hard and dry.



#### The original ingredients for ships biscuit:

- 3 1/2 Cups of flour
- 1 Cup of water
- 1/2 Tablespoon sea salt

#### Optional ingredients will make these more palatable:

- 2 oz. Butter (not used in the original recipe, but the biscuits will be easier to eat)
- 1 Cup of skimmed milk instead of water

Measure the flour and salt into a mixing bowl and blend together.

Measure the milk and butter and place in a saucepan over very low heat until butter melts. Add the milk and butter to the flour and mix until you have a dough, kneading the dough until all the flour is absorbed (it should be thick, shiny and stiff).

Roll the dough until it is fairly thin, about 1/4 - 1/2" thick. Cut the biscuit shapes using a cup rim (or round biscuit cutter).

Place on a baking tray and prick all over to let out any air bubbles that form while cooking.

Bake at 325° until golden brown (check at 20 minutes, then every five minutes thereafter for 30-40 minutes). Allow more time if biscuits are cut thicker. Turn off the oven and let biscuits cool completely in the oven.

The biscuits should be dry throughout or they may get moldy. Store in a dry place until needed for a 66-day voyage!

## Mayflower Passenger

### From the Captain's Manifest

By Debbie Misiag, Virginia Mayflower Society Historian

#### *Elizabeth Fisher Hopkins*

It is often easy to overlook the women who came with their parents or husband on the *Mayflower*. Their names get lost or unrecorded in the records and not much is known about them. It is, however important for those of us who have descended from these adventurous women, to learn more about their contributions and backgrounds. Considering many of them did not make it through the first year, it is even more important that they are remembered. One of those who did survive was Elizabeth Fisher Hopkins.

Elizabeth Fisher married Stephen Hopkins as his second wife at St. Mary Malloon, in Whitechapel, London, England on February 19, 1617/18. Stephen's first wife, Mary, had died in 1613, leaving Stephen with three young children. Stephen is famous for having been in both Jamestown (in 1610) and later in Plymouth (in 1620). Elizabeth and Stephen had one child in 1618, before the couple and their family came on the *Mayflower* in 1620. Elizabeth gave birth aboard the crowded *Mayflower* somewhere on the Atlantic Ocean to Oceanus. The ship, which lacked any privacy, meant the baby was born in a "dark berth of a between decks compartment" on a ship that was rolling in the sea with only the light of a lamp. The birth of Oceanus made the passenger list remain at 102 passengers upon arrival in America, since one servant boy, William Butten had died before the ship arrived in Cape Cod. Young Oceanus survived the trip but died in 1627. Elizabeth survived the early years of Plymouth and had five additional children. She died before June 6, 1644.

Elizabeth was not the only pregnant woman aboard the ship. Susanna White and Mary Allerton were also expecting babies. The delays in the journey posed serious problems for the passengers and crew of the ship as the ship should have arrived in early September and it was early winter before it reached the North American coast. Susanna gave birth to her son when the ship was in Cape Cod in late November 1620. Mary Allerton gave birth to a stillborn son in Plymouth Harbor on December 22, 1620. She herself would die in February 1621.

Sources:  
Whittock, M. (2019) *Mayflower Lives*  
*Mayflower Families Through Five Generations Vol 6*

## News from the Historian Team

From the period of August 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, the Virginia Mayflower Society has welcomed 36 new members. Congratulations to our newest members. New members are listed under their ancestor's name.

### Passenger John Alden

Robert Allen  
Jacqueline Chamberland  
Jeffrey Allen Flowers  
Jonathan Mark Flowers  
Ronald Merle Flowers  
Deanna Hoisington  
Joseph McGill

### Passenger William Bradford

Bert Larue Bradford  
Margaret Kent

### Passenger William Brewster

Randall Moorhead  
Nisha Cooch

### Passenger James Chilton

Gloria Cossaboon

### Passenger Francis Cooke

Rachel McNulty

### Passenger Edward Doty

Emma Haynes

### Passenger Francis Eaton

Shelley Johnson  
Joshua Thomas

### Passenger Edward Fuller

Lisa Fowler  
Robert Bentley

### Passenger Stephen Hopkins

Melba Karas  
Michael Dow  
Shannon Indoe

### Passenger Priscilla Mullins

Jaelyn Misiag

### Passenger George Soule

Laurie Snarr

### Passenger Myles Standish

Ruth James  
Carter Dupuy  
Dudley Dupuy  
Kelsey Dupuy  
Julene Morris  
Karen Collier

### Passenger Richard Warren

Leonard Thornton  
Karen Parvin  
Frederick True  
Richard True  
William True  
Kristen duBois  
Joan Glickman

In addition, we had eight supplemental applications approved during this time period.

### Supplemental Applications Approved

Transfer Member	Ancestor
Margaret Kent	Mary Allerton
Suzannah Carr	John Cooke
Pamela Pettengell	Edward Fuller
Robert Guthrie	George Soule
Mary Bolling Smith	Elizabeth Tilley, Joan Hurst Tilley, John Tilley
Suzannah Carr	Richard Warren

The Virginia Mayflower Society has had four members transfer into our society from other member societies.

Transfer Member	Ancestor
Debra Flanagan	William Brewster
Nancy Larsen	Thomas Rogers
Richard Gooding	Thomas Rogers
Stephen Kazlo	John Billington

## What the Board of Assistants and Committee Members Have Been Up To Since Fall 2022

- The Historian team worked tirelessly adding nearly 70 members to our roster in 2022.
- The Junior Chair worked closely with the parents and grandparents of prospective Junior members to help them navigate through the Junior membership process.
- The Speaker Series Committee lined up keynote speakers through 2024.
- The Newsletter Chair and his committee continue to produce exquisite informative newsletters.
- The Secretaries and our Hospitality Committee have kept our Membership Roster in fine shape, as well as overseeing the luncheon registration process.

*continued on page 9*

# From the Bookshelves ~ Virginia Mayflower Society Book Club

## Thanksgiving, The Pilgrims' First Year in America

Review by Cynthia Carlson,  
VA Mayflower Society Librarian

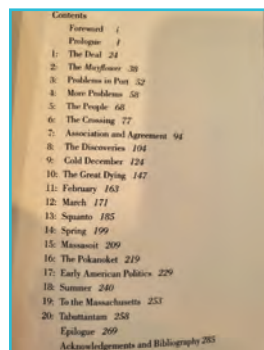
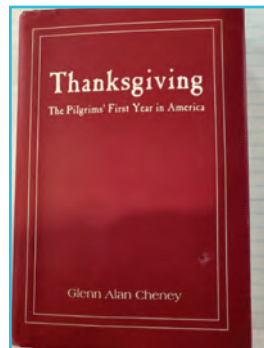
I bought Glenn Alan Cheney's Thanksgiving, The Pilgrims' First Year in America, published 2007, from the author at the Congress in Plymouth in 2016. I was looking for a modern, non-fiction rendition of the Pilgrim story and this looked to be a good fit. It is a compact 5 x 8 book of 284 pages: not too long or daunting. Better yet, I found it to be a witty, highly readable narrative of the first year in the Pilgrim story. The Prologue sets their story in its historical and religious context, placing the reader on the scene as events precipitate the need for Separatists to head for the New World.

After that, Cheney takes us to the back rooms of the Virginia Company, to the hiring of the *Mayflower*, and on to the perilous crossing of the Atlantic. The native peoples are well represented as they assist and interact with the new arrivals. The narrative continues till the harvest feast, now celebrated as Thanksgiving, occurs in the first half of Autumn, 1621. Cheney notes that Winslow, in a letter to England, does not use "thanksgiving" or "thanks" but that his letter reveals a season of plenty, of friendship with the native people, and of an appreciation for God's goodness (p. 260).

I regularly give this book to interested friends because Cheney attempts to "tell a true story," representing the people and times as accurately as sources allow. He states that he "had to walk a fine line between fact and imagination" (p. iii). All histories have a viewpoint, but you will find that this narrative resonates with the truth of the people who experienced the events and with their religious sympathies. Cheney includes 5 pages of Bibliography including his use of the historically contemporary text written by Bradford and *Mourt's Relation*, by Edward Winslow. Biblical quotes are sprinkled throughout, highlighting a way these Pilgrims may have reacted to or felt about their circumstances.

Even if you are very familiar with the story, this narrative will remind you of people, places, and ideas that get sweep away in conventional discussions or forgotten in the big picture. Get your copy and spend some time with the Pilgrims.

You can read about Glenn Alan Cheney on Amazon and can purchase either the hard-back book for \$29.95; paperback for \$13.59; or Kindle, \$7.99.



## Duxbury: Our Pilgrim Story

Review by Debbie Misiag, VA Mayflower Society Historian

The book, published in 2020 with the title Duxbury – Our Pilgrim Story – A 2020 Perspective by the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society and the Alden House Historical Site, provides the reader with several essays regarding the lives of the *Mayflower* passengers and some later arrivals who settled in Duxbury, just miles away from Plymouth.

Reprinted under the title Duxbury: Our Pilgrim Story: A 21st Century Perspective, provides information regarding archaeological history; life on Clark's Island; early lands and leaders of Duxbury and extensive information on John Alden and his wife Priscilla, along with their numerous children.

The book includes a wonderful map showing the land grants given to 29 men along the coast of Duxbury Bay including brief biographical information of each. Some of these men were the original *Mayflower* passengers and others like William Latham, William Palmer, John Washburn William Bassett, Job Cole, William Collier, John Barnes, William Tracy, Constant Southworth, Robert Hicks and Thomas Prence arrived within 15 years of the first settlers at Plymouth.

Additional essays in the full color book, include the Delano family, the Myles Standish Monument, and searching for the Old Burial Ground.

This is a must-have book for your bookshelf that is a quick read of just over 200 pages that is well presented. Copies of this book are available from [www.adden.org](http://www.adden.org)

### Thank You!

*We thank the following for their generosity for donations from September, 2022 to February 7, 2023*

Submitted by the Treasurers Team

#### General Fund

##### \$100 and Over

Barbara Brancoli Wendy Stark Cylvia Toy

##### Up to \$100

Susannah Smither Tim Finton Jeanne Noel

#### Mildred Ramos Scholarship Fund

##### Up to \$100

Peter Broadbent

#### Memorial Fund

##### Up to \$100

Leila Clark,  
in memory of  
Robert deT. Lawrence III

#### Speaker Fund

##### \$100 and Over

John Copenhaver

## Virginia Mayflower Society Website hosted by Wild Apricot Update

During the summer of 2022 your Virginia Mayflower Society Board of Assistants decided to modernize our website with a new and improved membership management system called Wild Apricot. It went public during the fall of 2022. Throughout the fall the board received web site training from Jamie Callender and David Harrity. With practice and experience, your board is feeling more comfortable and knowledgeable using Wild Apricot. We thought now is a good time to provide you with a more detailed report about what it can do for you.

- Web address: <https://virginiamayflower.org/>
- To view the members-only content, you need to establish a password associated with your e-mail address. It's a quick and easy process. To log in, first click the person icon. A white box prompting you to log in will appear, click on the "Forgot password" line at the bottom of the box. From there follow the prompts.
- Your password is unique to you and will allow you to access the Members Only section of the web page.
- A key feature of the new website is that members will be able to make online payments of annual membership renewals, event payments, and donations to the Society. That is significant because it eliminates writing checks, mailing checks to the right address, and adding postage.
- The members-only section also includes: information about upcoming Society meetings, online-registration for our biannual luncheons, an up-to-date Society roster with includes members' contact information as well as built-in messaging to other members, and archival records.

- NOTE: You are now able to update your contact information (e.g. name, phone, email, address) by clicking on the person icon and then on the "View profile" link.
- You will receive dues notices and your newsletter through the Wild Apricot message system. Newsletters are also posted on the web site.
- Any email correspondence from this Society will originate from our updated web site which is hosted by Wild Apricot and will be from the **Virginia Mayflower Society**. Messages will include the following: dues invoice reminders, event information, holiday greetings, etc., but we will never ask you to provide account or personal information via email.
- While the online system is intended to provide a level of convenience to the many who have requested online capabilities, we will still offer traditional methods of conducting Society business (e.g. accepting checks as payment of dues, donations, and other fees). We are not compelling any member to use the new online capabilities if they choose not to do so. Your Board of Assistants adopted this new Wild Apricot cloud-based software to help simplify and automate our Society administrative tasks for the convenience of members. We hope you start enjoying its benefits by visiting: <https://virginiamayflower.org/>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to use the Contact page - Contact Us - to reach out to Jamie Callender (Website Chair) or David Harrity (Wild Apricot Chair).

## Mildred Ramos Honored

During the September 2022 GSMD Board of Assistants Meeting in Bloomington, Minnesota, our very own Mildred Ramos was recognized for her service not just to the Virginia Society, but for her work at the National level. Below are Governor General Jane Hurt's remarks.

**MILDRED RAMOS** was approved for membership in April 1967 through Stephen Hopkins (55 years). Mildred served the Virginia Society as Assistant Historian and was elected Governor in 1973. Her General Society offices include the appointment to Chair the Education Committee beginning in 1975 and her election as Deputy Governor General (DGG) from Virginia in 1976. In 1978 she was elected and served four consecutive terms (12 years) as Secretary General. She also served as Junior Membership Chair during these years.



In 1990, she was elected Governor General of the General Society, being the second woman elected to hold this office since 1897. She has continued to serve on the General Board of Assistants and has been part of the Nominating Committee. She was appointed Chairman of the Nominating Committee for three different administrations.

Mildred was born in Richmond, Virginia, in April of 1926 (96th year), the oldest of six children. Mildred has enjoyed the Richmond Opera Group and her favorite entertainment today is baseball. She tells me she is a Georgia baseball fan – because she likes their announcer. A certificate of our appreciation will be mailed to Mildred Ramos, General Society #30357, in grateful recognition of 55 years of dedicated service to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.



## In Memoriam

*We have been informed of the deaths of the following members of the Virginia Society. Information about each was abstracted from published obituaries (if found).*

**Frances Lindsay 24 August 1929 – 5 August 2018** Mrs. Lindsay was born and raised in Norfolk. She attended Granby High School and was an alumnae of Sweet Briar College. Frances possessed a lifelong interest in the arts, history, and genealogy. She enjoyed traveling, tennis, golf, and especially dancing. Her husband and she were nicknamed “Fred and Ginger.” She served on the boards of directors of the Virginia Opera Association, the Norfolk Society of Arts, the Norfolk Public Library and WHRO. One of her proudest accomplishments was organizing and serving on the committee that was responsible for producing “Norfolk Reflections,” a film highlighting the history of Norfolk for visitors to the city. In addition to being a member of the Virginia Mayflower society, she was a member of the Garden Club of Norfolk and the Colonial Dames, among others. She is survived by her husband, Harvey, five children, and thirteen grandchildren.

**Arthur T. Buswell 1933 – 2022** Colonel Buswell, known as Buzz, was born in Boston in 1933. After graduating from Boston University, he spent 31 years in the U.S. Army. He was the recipient of the Defense Superior Medal, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, two Vietnam Service Medals, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and other citations. His tour of duty assignment was the Defense Logistics Agency, serving overseas in Germany, Vietnam, and Japan. He then was assigned to the U.S. Pentagon, and retired in 1986 after attaining the rank of colonel. Buzz and his wife, Doris, loved to boat, jet ski, fish, and catch crab off their dock and often hosted cook outs on their deck overlooking the water at their home in the Northern Neck. He enjoyed being active and involved in the community. He was a member of the Colonial Beach Historical Society and Museum. He also was actively involved in the project to build a replica of the James Monroe Birthplace Home on Monroe Creek in Colonial Beach. He was a lifelong member of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and the Virginia Society of Mayflower Descendants. Buzz is survived by his wife, Doris, one daughter, one step-daughter, and three grand-children. He was preceded in death by his son, Scott. Colonel Buswell was interred with honors in Quantico National Cemetery.

**Shirley Ann McGrath 17 August 1929 – 5 October 2022** Mrs. McGrath was born in Greencastle, Indiana. She graduated from Saranac Lake High School, New York, in 1946. Entering Cornell University on full scholarship, she graduated in 1950 with a BA in Mathematics with Distinction and became a mem-

ber of Phi Beta Kappa. Subsequently, she earned an MS degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Industrial Psychology in 1969. She developed deep passions for the environment and genealogy, and served in numerous organizations, including the Anchorage Women’s Club, the Navy League, and the Air Force Association. Beyond bear viewing in Alaska, and bird watching across the U.S., Shirley photographed wildlife in Central America, the South Pacific, and Antarctica, and energetically supported organizations seeking to preserve natural habitats worldwide. She was active in many genealogical and historical organizations, including the Daughters of the American Revolution, The Mayflower Society, The Huguenot Society of America, The Plantagenet Society, and the Magna Charta Dames. Mrs. McGrath is survived by one son, two grandsons, and one great-granddaughter.

**Thomas E. Clements 1949 – 2021** Thomas was passionate about and an active member of The General Society of Mayflower Descendants. He was a loyal Red Sox and Patriots fan. He is survived by his wife, Lynn, two children, two grandchildren, and two brothers. He was preceded in death by one grandson.

**Barbara Henderson 11 January 1936 – 2 October 2022** Mrs. Henderson was born in St. Joseph’s Hospital, Parkersburg, WV. She graduated from Parkersburg High School in 1953 and participated in A Cappella Choir, Thespians and the All-State Chorus group. “Babs” attended WVU and was active in Chi Omega Sorority and served as an ROTC sponsor. She graduated with a Regent’s B.A. degree from Glenville State College in 1975. Barbara performed with the Parkersburg’s Actors Guild’s 1972 – 1973 production of Forty Carats. Barbara was an active member of the Junior League and served on many committees. She helped start Parkersburg’s Fellowship Home; a halfway house for recovering substance abuse patients. Barbara was most proud when wearing the blue and gold of the WV Mountaineers; she rarely missed a televised game. Barbara dabbled in politics and ran for WV State Delegate. Though defeated, she later was elected to be a Jury Commissioner. Earning her GRI, she became a successful real estate agent. She along with husband, Jim, traveled the country tracing her genealogy; becoming a proud member of the Mayflower Society. She is survived by her husband, Jim, three siblings, 4 children, two step-children, eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by one sister and one step-daughter.

## What the Board of Assistants and Committee Members Have Been Up To Since Fall 2022

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- The Treasurers transitioned seamlessly from the more traditional dues and donations process to an online system.
- The Education Committee provided interesting book reviews, biographies about our ancestors, and hands on children’s activities one can do with their children or grands at home.
- The Mildred Ramos Scholarship Chair and her committee have selected an interesting essay topic for scholarship applicants, refined the scholarship process, and held a successful Silent Auction at last fall’s Compact Day Luncheon.
- The Surgeon, Elder, and Captain look to our well-being and guide us through our Mayflower rituals at each meeting.
- Finally, our Web Master and Wild Apricot Chair have spent many hours ensuring that our web site is running smoothly and efficiently as well as answering officers’ many questions about inputting data in the system.

## Mildred Ramos Scholarship Committee News

The Mildred Ramos Scholarship Fund was established in 2012 to encourage and support the study of the Mayflower Pilgrim experience and values. This annual scholarship of \$1,620 is awarded to a high school senior, home school equivalent, or a college undergraduate or graduate student under 25 years old. The awardee must be a Virginia resident, related to a Virginia resident, or a member of the Virginia Mayflower Society. Additionally, the candidate must have at least a B grade point average and be sponsored by a current teacher, school counselor, or member of the Society. Additional information on the scholarship can be found on our website. Applications must be received by the Mildred Ramos Scholarship Chairman, Karen L. Pogoloff by March 15, 2023.

Each year a new essay subject is selected by the Scholarship Committee. This year the question posed is:

**One man, Stephen Hopkins, was at Jamestowne Colony in 1610 and Plymouth Colony in 1620. He arrived in Jamestowne after being marooned in Bermuda following the wreck of the *Sea Venture*. How did this experience potentially shape decisions made during the early years of the Plymouth Colony?**

Each year at our Compact Luncheon, a silent auction is held for the Mildred Ramos Scholarship Fund. This year we also held a

Pink Petal Raffle, that was very successful. A special thank you to the donors of items for the auction: Meg Averett, Martha Ellen Brockner, John Alden Copenhaver, Timothy Finton, Joel Fletcher, Brantley B. Knowles, Marsha H. Masone, Karen L. Pogoloff, and Lee Hardin Woody. Thank you also to the bidders who helped us in raising \$501.00. The Mill Mountain Star Bird Feeder won by Ron and Cecie Adolphi received the highest bid, and the item that had the most competitive bidding was the *Mighty Mastiff of the Mayflower* book won by Eloise Leslie.

If you would like to donate an item for the 2023 silent auction please contact Karen L. Pogoloff.



## How I Learned I Am a Mayflower Descendant

By David Harrity

I don't quite recall how my genealogy research began roughly some 20 years ago, but it most certainly started shortly after I began using my first home computer. As a U.S. Navy veteran, I had always lived far away from my birth state and those of my ancestors, so visiting the local library or county courthouse was not really an option to begin my genealogical quest.

I recall purchasing the deluxe edition of the Family Tree Maker software, and using its many, many alphabetically arranged CD-ROMs to bounce from disc-to-disc locating the census records or other sources of the many surnames of my past generations. All of this was downloaded on my C:\ drive only until I purchased an external hard drive for backup. While I now considered that quite tedious, it's nothing compared to locating and printing out paper copies and filing them away after visiting county courthouses and local libraries to scan books or microfiche looking for clues, which I did on a few rare occasions.

Eventually, I made the shift to maintaining my family tree online at Ancestry.com in February 2008—now 15 years ago and continue to this day. For the most part, if it's not online, then it doesn't exist in my research and so this was my "normal" for at least 10 years. Then in July of 2018, I had grown my online family tree to more than 16,000 family members and I'm generally proud to say, each person has been well-researched and documented with multiple sources (if online, of course).

For most of my paternal lineage is Irish and finding records beyond immigration to the United States has been difficult to say the least, so most of these lines on my paternal grandfather's side are a brickwall once in Ireland.

But my paternal grandmother's lineage is a different story. As I explored each line, I could never find her ancestor's country of origin... each successive generation was deeper and deeper into colonial America, including Captain Samuel Kelley (1781-1820). Then, I stumbled across a record hint for my 7th ggm Elizabeth Rosbotham (1708-1745), it was the "Mayflower Births and Deaths, Vol. 1 and 2" — a source repository I had never seen until this moment.

And then came, the "Genealogies of Family Families, Vol. III" for her mother (my 8th ggm) Elizabeth Church (1684-1757), and then "Mayflower Deeds and Probates, 1600-1850" too, for her father (my 9th ggf) Benjamin Church (1639-1717/18), and finally onto Elizabeth Warren, daughter of Mayflower passenger Richard Warren.

Was it possible!? Am I really a descendant of the Mayflower!? Prior to this discovery, I was well aware of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and the SAR/DAR organizations, but far less aware on how to prove it.

*continued on page 11*

## The Virginia Mayflower Society SPRING LUNCHEON

Saturday, May 6, 2023, at The Belmont Estates  
224 Washington Street Falmouth, VA 22405

**Time: 12:00 pm: Reception, Cash Bar 12:45 pm: Luncheon**

**Cost per person (gratuity and tax included): Adult: \$41.00 ; Children 12 and under: \$20.00**

**The Compact Day Luncheon will feature:** Garden Salad, Bruschetta Chicken Milanese, Sautéed Haricot Verts, Ancient Grains, Warm Bread Pudding with Praline Ice Cream/Anaglaise Sauce, Ice Tea, Coffee, Water Vegetarian Option Available

**The Children's meal will feature:** Chicken Tender or Mac and Cheese

**To register for this luncheon you have two options:**

**1** Visit <https://virginiamayflower.org/> to register and pay online

**2** Complete this form and mail it along with your check to

John A. Copenhaver, Jr.  
PO Box 1038  
Fredericksburg, VA 22402-1038

Name	Type	New Member/ First-Time Attending?	Attendee?	Special Menu?
_____	Member	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Child	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
_____	Guest	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Child	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
_____	Guest	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Child	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
_____	Guest	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Child	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Member Email / Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list special dietary requests on this form: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Attendees:  Adults  Children

**Deadline:** Online Reservation and payment OR Newsletter Reservation form and check must be received by **April 28, 2023**

**Payment:** Online with Credit or Debit Card Mail in Registration if paying by check, payable to *Virginia Mayflower Society*

## Directions to the Belmont Estates

**The address of The Belmont Estates is:**

224 Washington Street  
Falmouth, Va. 22405

From I-95, take Falmouth-Warrenton Exit 133A. Follow U.S. Rt 17 (toward Falmouth) 1.25 miles to Washington St (just before flashing light). Turn right into Belmont.

## How I Learned I Am a Mayflower Descendant

*continued from page 10*

In August 2018, I visited *The Mayflower Society's* website and submitted my proposed Mayflower Lineage Match for review, and quickly received a reply that my lineage from Richard Warren through 7 generations have been proved and I would need to prove my portion of the lineage.

Thanks to the assistance of Deb Shea and Page Pelliconi, I learned the importance of primary vs secondary sources and set to work — a process that (for me) took nearly 2.5 years to complete. Once the prospect of becoming a GSMD member in 2020 for the 400th anniversary lost a bit of its luster — thank you COVID-19, I worked on the items that for a few generations, I needed to purchase copies of birth and death certifi-

cates, and marriage licenses and divorce decrees, primarily using VitalChek. And there was a not-so small matter of the wrong name of a parent listed on my 8th - 9th generation death certificate.

In the summer of 2021, Page and I had finally gathered all the proofs and she submitted my package for review and approval. Then on Christmas Eve 2021, I contracted COVID-19 and was feeling terrible until I received in the mail, my official GSMD certificate. It was the best of days, it was the worst of days. But I could not help and smile from ear to ear, all the while as the fever, chills and sweats coursed through my body.



# The Virginia Mayflower

Send address changes to:

Gerald Sailors  
7296 Red Cloud Court  
Mechanicsville, VA 23111-4479

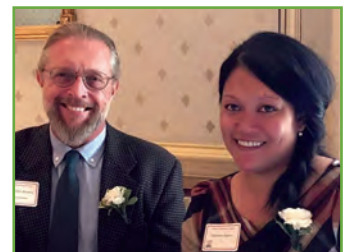
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The twice-a-year newsletter of the Society of Mayflower  
Descendants in the Commonwealth of Virginia

## Compact Day 2022 Memories

At our November 19, 2022, Compact Day Luncheon at the Commonwealth Club of Virginia we were treated to a fascinating talk by Andrew Giles Buckley about Mayflower Passenger Stephen Hopkins. In addition, we were honored to have fourteen new members or first-time attendees join us along with five Junior Members. The day was the perfect way to kick off the holiday season.

Photos by Joel Fletcher and Brantley Knowles



New Members