



ILLINOIS *Mayflower* NEWS

WINTER 2021

Message from Our Illinois Governor

Dear Members:

Happy New Year, cousins. 2020 did not go as we had hoped, but I hope you were able to enjoy Thanksgiving and the holidays with your loved ones.

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants special Congress was held via Zoom on September 26, 2020. All 54 societies were present including Australia, Europe, and your Illinois cousins. It was a lengthy meeting, where bylaws were discussed, and new officers were elected. Our past Governor, Jane Schleinzer, won a Member-At-Large position! Please read the minutes in the Winter issue of *The Mayflower Quarterly*.

We were hoping to meet in person this spring, but out of an abundance of caution, we will gather for a virtual meeting on May 15. We will also award our annual scholarship. (See pages 9 & 11 for details.)

The General Board of Assistants (GBOA) meeting will be held in Plymouth this September, to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the First Thanksgiving. Information will be available soon for the events.

It is a pleasure serving you as Governor. If you have questions or comments, please let me or a fabulous board member know.

Stay safe and healthy,

Jessica Schleinzer,
Illinois Governor



2020 Annual Meeting Zooms to Order

By Mary Morony

Just as the *Mayflower* passengers pooled their expertise to repair the storm damaged ship, the Illinois Society Board of Assistants pooled its technical skills to hold the 2020 Annual Meeting via Zoom. Instead of sending back an RSVP card with their choice of entrée, members were asked to submit their email addresses so they could receive detailed instructions on how to join the on-line meeting. As a result, the member database now includes many additional emails – an unexpected bonus.

Another bonus was the chance for members outside the area to attend without a long drive or risk of snowstorms. The Zoom “location” was equally convenient for all – including snowbirds. This somewhat made up for forgoing the pleasures of seeing everyone in person.

The session kicked off at 11:00 am Saturday morning,



November 21, with 91 members in attendance, mostly via Zoom and others tuned in via One Tap Mobile. And what a delight to see Bill Elliott (*shown here*) joining the meeting from Australia!

During the business meeting and program by Cary Stone-Greenstein, participants could move among four screens to see the other members, and send messages to friends using the

“Chat” feature. It was not the same as seeing old friends in person, but everyone agreed that Zoom is an amazing communications tool, especially during a worldwide pandemic.

Hopefully, with several vaccines coming on stream this year, everyone can meet in person for the **Fall Luncheon** on **Saturday, November 20th**. There are a lot of reasons I hope this is true, but the big one is that I am sure the food is going to be a lot better than lunch at my house.

– **More about the meeting on pages 2 and 3.**

2020

Annual Meeting



Mary Morony, Jane Schleinzer, Jessica Schleinzer and Cary Stone-Greenstein during our virtual conversation in November.

Illinois Mayflower Members Connect Online

The Annual Meeting of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Illinois was held on November 22, 2020, via teleconference. The meeting was held via teleconference due to the coronavirus and the shelter at home order in the State of Illinois.

The meeting was called to order by Governor Jessica Schleinzer at 11:00 am. Karen Seda gave the invocation and Jessica Schleinzer led the pledge of allegiance. Ann Wilkerson read the Mayflower Compact. A motion was

passed to approve the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting. Eva Blanco presented the Nominating Committee's slate of officers. A motion was passed to make the nominated slate the elected slate.

Former Governor and General Society Member-at-Large Jane Schleinzer reported on the General Society: November 21 is the anniversary of the signing of the Compact. The 2020 coin was released on November 17; this is the Illinois Society's contribution

to the 2020 commemoration. The exterior of the Mayflower Meeting-house in Plymouth has been restored. A new online shop is to be launched, with a special Black Friday sale. Among the new items on sale will be a First Day issue of the *Mayflower* stamp on a special GSMD envelope.

Jane also pointed out that among the participants was Bill Elliott, joining the meeting from Australia. Next year in September of 2021 the GBOA meeting will be held in Plymouth

with lots of activities celebrating the anniversary of the first Thanksgiving. *The Mayflower Quarterly* will have details for anyone who plans to attend.

Cary Stone-Greenstein presented a very interesting program entitled "The Mayflower Voyage 400 Years Later: Why Do We Care?" pointing out the contrasts between the Plymouth Colony and Jamestown.

There being no further business, Karen Seda gave the benediction, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

– Mary Morony,
Recording Secretary



What would our Mayflower ancestors think of Zoom? Hopefully we will gather together next November and resume our Family Photos and installing new members in person.

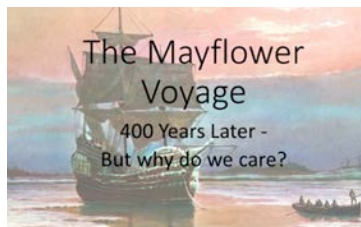
Plymouth Colony vs Jamestown Explored

By Cary Stone-Greenstein

This project began with me (as a member of the Jamestown Society) wondering why the Mayflower 400th anniversary seemed to be a bigger deal than the one in 1607 for Jamestown. I get it for Mayflower Society members, but why in general? Like most of my age cohort, I drew Pilgrims to decorate the classroom and traced fingers to draw turkeys. Thanksgiving meant Pilgrims. Jamestown got little mention.

So I started to try to figure out why. One of the things that jumped out at me was the difference in detail of the information available. My *Mayflower* “handbook,” which I use frequently is *The Mayflower and her Passengers* by Caleb Johnson. There is a huge amount of detail about most of the passengers and their families. That is how I know that William Mullin was a shoemaker and brought “twenty one dozen pairs of shoes and thirteen pairs of boots” with him (pp 194-5).

Yet for Jamestown, although John Smith wrote several histories of Jamestown, as did the next leader George



Percy and some others, these were written years later, only after returning to England (and with axes to grind) usually to justify their own leadership. No one wrote a consistent and

continuing history, and no one who was there described the details of what happened at the time.

Arriving ship’s logs tell us how many passengers they brought to Jamestown, but not their names. They also often recorded the number of survivors on their arrival, but (again) not who they were. It is known that many of the settlers died between one ship and another, but totally unknown how many may have left – or how. What we do know is that LARGE numbers of settlers arrived over the early years, but arriving ships repeatedly found shockingly few settlers there when they arrived.

Websites that should have accurate information conflict on many details, including who died when. A Library of Congress Timeline website has the Starving Time as from “winter to May 1609” and before Smith was superseded as Governor. That would be the second winter.

However it is absolutely known to have been after Smith left in October



1609. George Percy, the leader after Smith, describes it in detail as in the third winter in an account justifying his leadership then.

If you Google early Jamestown deaths you will find many sites with conflicted “facts,” but the lead article says “Three thousand colonists died during these three years. At least 6,000 people went to Virginia between 1607 and 1624. In 1625, there were 1,200 people there. Virtually every letter from Virginia during this period speaks of the helplessness the colonists felt before the phenomenon of widespread deaths.” Regardless of discrepancies in the numbers, it is clear that people were dying en masse for years.

In Plymouth by contrast, Governor Bradford recorded the names of those on the *Mayflower* and what happened to them at the time and in place where it happened. Our knowledge is detailed (who got what cow when) and personal. We know details (like Mullin’s shoes). This makes the settlers more real to us.

In fact there is a well-known poster usually displayed at our meetings showing outlines of all the men women & children on the ship in family groups on the top – and with the deceased ones grayed out at the bottom (*detail at left*). Sadly no one has the knowledge to do that for Jamestown.

That led me to see what I could find, and to compare the people, situation and circumstances between the two groups. Once I saw the actual facts for Jamestown it was clear to me why no one wanted to teach the details of those early years to young children.



My Mayflower Story

Nicole Mauser-Storer

I started doing genealogical research around 2003 and put together some basic information based on what the family knew, shared Gedcom files, and corresponded with folks through chat groups. After a couple of years, I stopped working on the tree and was busy with work and other things.

I honestly can't tell you what prompted me to look at all my data again in 2019. An email from FamilySearch or Ancestry must have piqued my interest. Or, the burning question my dad's family has had for generations came up again. We've always wondered if our branch of the Mauser family tree is related to the Peter Paul Mauser of Mauser Rifle fame.

Anyway, away I went, ordering birth, marriage, and death certificates, searching for obituaries and all the pieces that make a family tree interesting. This time around I had purchased a subscription to Ancestry and had loaded my Gedcom file there to start.

Things had improved so much in the last 15 years and all the little leaf hints in Ancestry were amazing! I attached sources to people right and left, and as I went back further on one of the branches, I started seeing hints related to *Mayflower* Births and Deaths. That caught my attention right away. Now I had a mission!

The first line I had discovered led to Francis Eaton and Francis Billington. There was one generation in that line where records were hard to locate so I hired Ancestry Pro Genealogists to help me. After months of searching, the document link was found and that application is awaiting approval.

As I searched for other things in my tree I joined Daughters of the American Revolution on one line and then realized that the same line also went back to John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley with most of the proof already done for the people I needed.

John Howland was my first application and I was accepted in May 2020.

As I researched, I realized that 2020 was the 400 year celebration of the *Mayflower*. The decision was made that we would travel to Plymouth and take in the sights in the celebration year. Reservations were made in February 2020, and you all know what happened next – COVID-19. We held onto our August reservations and hoped for the



Nicole Mauser-Storer and her husband Cory Storer visited Plymouth in 2020.

best. We had picked the perfect time. I traveled to Plymouth with my husband and my parents for three days of exploring in mid-August 2020 as travel was accessible, and most sites were open. We toured Plimouth Plantation, the Plimouth Grist Mill, and the *Mayflower II*, all of which were spectacular. We also enjoyed a guided walking tour of Plymouth, the Jabez Howland house and the Meeting-house that the Mayflower Society now owns.

Learning the history of the *Mayflower* pilgrims has been fascinating. With every piece I read, and every tour site we visited, I learned a bit more about those who came over on the *Mayflower*, what their lives were like and the reasons they made the migration. Given an option I think we would go back to Plymouth again and see the Pilgrim Hall Museum (which was closed when we went) and pick up a few more pieces of historical context.

I'm sure everyone thinks their *Mayflower* ancestor has some good stories, but I feel like between John Howland – who has so many descendants, including US Presidents – and John Billington, who has quite a reputation for being a trouble maker – there are a lot of stories to share. The people from 400 years ago really do start to become real people – not just names and dates.

I am grateful to the people who have dedicated so much time to keeping the Mayflower Society active all these years and am honored to be a part of the Mayflower Society.

History Defines Donald W. Sherman

Membership Secretary Don Sherman was interviewed for an article on the 400th Anniversary which ran in the November 11, 2020 issue of the *Journal & Topics* newspapers, a northwest suburban newspaper chain. Here is an edited version of Lauren Barry's article.

Could your ancestors have come to America on the *Mayflower*?

It's more likely than you may think. According to Don Sherman, there are an estimated 10 million people in America who are *Mayflower* descendants and approximately 1,100 members in our Illinois Society alone.

Due to the 400th anniversary and people spending more time at home because of the pandemic, the Illinois Society has had over 150 new applications in the past year.

Membership began ticking up around 10 years ago when the Society started accepting applications from individuals who could prove they were descended from female passengers. (See box below.)

"They became a little more enlightened," Sherman said. "Personally, I was very pleased."

"These days we're having booming business," he said. "This year [2020] has been a banner year."

Sherman has served as the staff historian for Klein Tools in Lincolnshire, where he is a longtime quality department employee. His father also worked there.

"History kind of defines me," Sherman confessed.

Growing up in Evanston, Sherman learned about family history from his grandfather, including their relationship to Civil War Union Army General William Tecumseh Sherman. This connection inspired Sherman to become a Civil War reenactor and, in the early 2000s, join a society for Civil War descendants.

Through the process of joining that Society, Sherman found out in 2003 about his connection to the *Mayflower*: his great-great grandmother Sarah "Sadie" Ferguson. Even

though his family knew a lot about their history, Sherman had never heard about Ferguson from his family, possibly because she died young, in her 30s.

He discovered that she was buried at Oak Woods Cemetery on the south side of Chicago, just a few steps from civil rights leader Ida B. Wells. He could tell that her grave hadn't been visited often.

"It was very amazing," he said of the visit. "It was a moving experience for me."

Through Sadie, Sherman was able to find documents connecting his family line to John Howland. In addition to Howland, Sherman is also a descendant of John Tilley and 8 others.

By 2005, two years after discovering the existence of Ferguson, Sherman joined our board and soon after became membership secretary.

For Sherman, his connection to the *Mayflower* travelers makes him feel grateful that his ancestors survived a trip across the ocean.

"It gives you a sense of your place in history, of your place in time," he said.

Don lives in Des Plaines with his wife Patti, a professional musician and storyteller.



Don Sherman (left) with his friend Jon Austin at a Civil War reenactment in 2014.

• **Don reflects on Jon Austin, who passed away in November 2020 (See page 11):** "We shared our love of history and the *Mayflower* and the Civil War, specifically. Like me, Jon was also a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS), a hereditary society of male descendants of Civil War Federal (Union) officers. I am the State Commander for MOLLUS and Jon was our Recorder (Historian) who helped applicants through the membership process like we do in the Illinois *Mayflower* Society. Because he lived downstate, we didn't run into each other very often, but it was always a happy reunion when we did."

The wives and daughters that came on the *Mayflower* and are currently recognized by the GSMD

Mary (Norris) Allerton
Mary Allerton
Elinor Billington
Mary () Brewster

Mrs. James Chilton
Mary Chilton
Sarah () Eaton
Mrs. Edward Fuller

Constance Hopkins
Elizabeth (Fisher) Hopkins
Priscilla Mullins
Elizabeth Tilley
Joan (Hurst) Tilley
Susanna (Jackson) White

Giving Voice to the Female Separatists

BOOK REVIEW By Dr. Judy Mayo

This long-awaited book, *In the Shadow of Men* by Sue Allan, explores new details about our female ancestors before they came to America. The hope is that through these portraits some light may shine on these women. We learn about the lives and struggles of all English women of that era, including the Separatists and other women that they would have known in the Netherlands.

Understanding the circumstances that shaped each woman's faith is important for the role they played in the Separatist movement. These nine women, mostly forgotten by history, are all married to prominent Separatists or to ministers who had long struggled to exercise their beliefs.

The nine women are: Elizabeth (Barker) Winslow, Jane (Wastenes) Southworth, Jane (Ashmore) Helwys, Ann (Stuffen) Clifton, Thomasine (Boys) Johnson, Dorothy (May) Bradford, Alice (Carpenter) (Southworth) Bradford, Bridge (White) Robinson, and Mary Brewster.

When the situation became intolerable and unsafe for them in England, they fled to the Netherlands and settled in Leiden where they joined groups such as the Ancient Brethren, followers of John Smyth and early Baptists that had settled there for safety. Some were members of the Leiden congregation under minister John Robinson. It is this group from where many of the *Mayflower* passengers originated. There were eighteen married women on the *Mayflower* when it landed in Plymouth. One year later only four of the women survived.

Ms. Allan makes it clear that little is known about the lives of the Separatist women involved in the story of the *Mayflower*. These women had long-standing beliefs and had attempted to practice their religion before their marriages. They met their husbands – who practiced the same beliefs – in meetinghouses and churches.

Equally important to our understanding of these women is the genealogical documentation of the family lines that showed the relationships of these women to cousins and in-laws through marriage.

The scholarly documentation of the punishments against Separatists are important for gaining an understanding of how these women were effected and their views were formed. They were under the legal auspices of their fathers and then their husbands. Even though

they had no public voice at the time, they demonstrated strength of character in the actions they took to support the fathers and husbands who later became prominently known in the history of the cause.

My Connection

I am fortunate to have two of these women ancestors in my line. Mary Brewster was one of the *Mayflower* survivors and Alice Carpenter Southworth Bradford, who came later aboard the *Anne*, and married William Bradford in Plymouth.

Mary Brewster has been historically unknown as an individual in her own right. Ms. Allan researched her background and lineage through multiple lines that were possible links for her ancestry. Even though her husband William Brewster was a great lover of books and had written pamphlets, this did not translate to any description of her or his children.

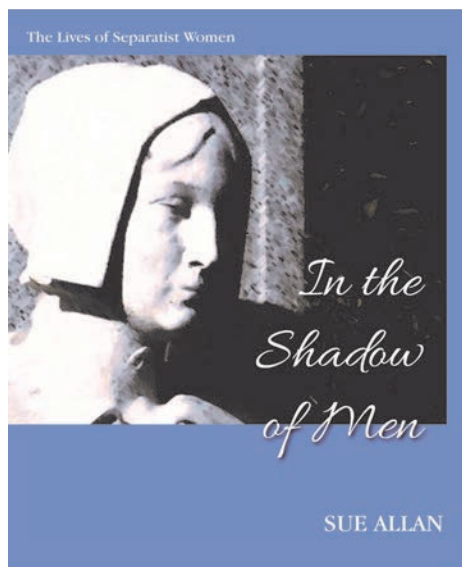
Ms. Allan sheds light on the character and resilience of Mary Brewster for staying by her husband through many difficult years in England, on the *Mayflower*, and for being one of four surviving women in Plymouth one year later.

Alice Carpenter was first married to Edward Southworth in Leiden. Both Alice and Edward came to Leiden with their parents who were Separatists and joined a congregation there. It is presumed that Edward and Alice Southworth were planning to join the group in London to await passage on the *Mayflower*. They left Leiden and had residence at Dukes Place in London. The historical photo and discussion of that place was significant to me because that is the last known place where my ancestor Edward

Southworth lived. He is presumed to have died in London about that time.

Alice did not sail on the *Mayflower* and remained in London for a few years. Alice received a letter from William Bradford requesting her marriage and she accepted his proposal. She sailed on the *Anne* to Plymouth in 1623. William Bradford and Alice Carpenter Southworth were married in Plymouth in 1627.

I was personally interested in learning more about my ancestor Alice Carpenter Southworth Bradford who had a long and happy marriage to William Bradford. But for all his prolific writing he did not provide any personal narrative about her. His description of their wedding celebration



Do Your Family History!

By Charles Chauncey Wells

“Don’t let the perfect crowd out the good” is a useful adage when contemplating publishing your family history.

I have been using two programs: Ancestry, which has terrific algorithms to bring in data and to use photos, and RootsMagic, more text-based, easy to print out diagrams and write a genealogy with easy editing. Both programs can exchange data.

Time is moving on and at age 76, I needed to publish my research. Waiting to get my RootsMagic data just perfect looked less likely using the traditional genealogical book format. Ancestry, through its print affiliate MyCanvas, proved the best answer for the immediate future. The more “perfect” book can come later.

Using MyCanvas I produced a 110-page 5-Generation Ancestor history, illustrated in 4/color printing in a beautiful bound volume with gold stamped cover for \$133 each. Surprisingly, this volume has sold more than 15 copies.

MyCanvas using Ancestry data lays out all the timelines and progression of generations automatically. Then I added generational pages for my three brothers and me, complete with pictures of three generations of our children and grandchildren.

Some of my photos are 110 years old and all pictures are stunning with great printing and reproduction including newspaper obits imported by the program. To complete it, I created an index of dates when family members immigrated to America, which I printed separately and inserted into the finished book.



Charles Chauncey Wells joined the Illinois Mayflower Society in 1991 and is a descendant of John Howland and John Tilley.

• Have you published your family history? Contact Jan Harrington to share your project in our newsletter!



Judy Mayo and Sue Allan are both self-confessed history lovers, and in particular the Pilgrims. “Several years of emails formed our relationship prior to our first meeting during a 2013 GSMD-sponsored trip to visit Pilgrim UK origins. Our historical love has resulted in a friendship that has continued and we were pleased to meet again at the Mayflower Society House in Plymouth in Sept. 2019.”

in Plymouth was particularly interesting for the inclusion of the native people who attended. After William’s death Alice Bradford’s signature was found on several documents.

The last chapter is about the Plymouth Colony and the attitude towards women. It is hard to gauge how much, if at all, the attitude of Separatist men toward women was any different from other men of their time. There are some promising examples of a softening of attitudes towards women, such as the stance that Richard Jackson took regarding his sister Jane, who had a domestic problem with her husband. Rather than condemn his sister for being at fault for her husband’s attitude towards her, he took her side and helped her to take the unthinkable step of leaving her husband.

Viewed through modern eyes, the manner and attitude of governance may seem severe and patriarchal. The governance of the Colony had to fulfill the terms of the patents granted by King James, and English law was to be strictly observed.

• **In the Shadow of Men** is important as a genealogical and historical scholarly contribution that discusses and documents important details in the lives of these women. It is a step further in acquiring an understanding of women and others of that period. This book, and others by Sue Allan, is available at americanancestors.org.

Welcome Our NEW MEMBERS

Congratulations to the following who have been accepted into the Mayflower Society in the State of Illinois (August 2020 - January 2021).

Descendants of **JOHN ALDEN**

Craig Alan Deets, Clinton

Sheila Ray Hill Runyan, Heyworth

Donald Phillip Truax, Aurora

Descendant of **JOHN BILLINGTON**

Allyssa Marie Wood, Maryville

Descendants of **WILLIAM BRADFORD**

Guy Henry Allen, Delavan

Edna Louise Dawley Strnad,

North Palm Beach, FL

John Matthew Waters, Park Ridge

Descendant of **WILLIAM BREWSTER**

Cathryn Lou Wilcox Richardson,

Arlington Heights

Descendant of **PETER BROWNE**

George Warren Tinkham, Springfield

Descendants of **FRANCIS COOKE**

Florence May Hubbard Babos,

South Barrington

Helen Esther Hubbard Martin,

Arlington Heights

George Scott Mitchell, Naperville

Descendant of **JOHN COOKE**

Carol Ann Kennedy Spanuello, Willowbrook

Descendant of **EDWARD DOTY**

Robert Lee Lathrop, Plainfield

Descendants of **EDWARD FULLER**

Sandra Kay Sinclair Alles,

New Lenox

Kimberly Gail Donahue-Waters,

Park Ridge

Kathryn Marie Ericksen,

Northbrook

Carrie Amalia Ericksen Homsy,

Alamo, CA

Descendants of **STEPHEN HOPKINS**

Diane Marie Ravas Alae, Odessa, FL

Alice Lucille McMullen Louko,

Elk Grove Village

Gregory Vincent Sullivan, Branson, MO

Joy Ann Weidenmiller Sweet, Barrington

Descendant of **JOHN HOWLAND**

Margaret Elizabeth Clauson, Northfield

Descendant of **THOMAS ROGERS**

Martha Patricia Molter Seif, Urbana

Descendants of **GEORGE SOULE**

Julia Rae Ferguson Bay, Sandy, UT

Michelle Elizabeth Fowler, Chicago

Alexandra Moure'e Pape, Lake Zurich

NEW SUPPLEMENTALS

These members have been approved for additional ancestors.

Florence May Babos

(James Chilton)

Julie Ann Barnes

(Elinor Billington, Francis Billington)

Arielle Weiss Dachman

(Richard Warren)

Deborah Ann Domain

(Mrs. Edward Fuller)

Patricia Ann Ericksen

(Stephen Hopkins)

Rachel Elizabeth

Dunkelberger Fowler

(James Chilton)

Geneve Louise Harris

(Edward Fuller, William Brewster, John Howland)

James Norman Lair

(Henry Samson)

David Weiss Lipschutz

(Richard Warren)

Zachary Bernard Lipschutz

(Richard Warren)

Sarah Rose Lynch

(Richard Warren)

Helen Esther Martin

(James Chilton)

Jordan Bassett Pranger

(Edward Doty, Francis Cooke, Stephen Hopkins)

James Harlan Pranger

(Edward Doty, Francis Cooke, Stephen Hopkins)

James Raymond Pranger

(Francis Cooke, Stephen Hopkins)

Joan Edith Schacht

(John Billington, Elinor Billington, Samuel Eaton)

Donald Wayne Sherman

(John Howland)

Thomas Lindsey Skinner

(William Mullins)

Phyllis Anne Zink-Schwenk

(John Tilley)

NEW JUNIOR ASSOCIATES

Descendant of **JOHN ALDEN**

Kevin William Cantieri, Sponsored by
Ann Margaret Peabody Cantieri

Descendant of **WILLIAM BREWSTER**

Virginia Claire Driscoll, Sponsored by
Karen Jayne Merkl Mason

Descendant of **RICHARD WARREN**

Oliver Orion Atticus Worrell, Sponsored
by Sharyn Dianne Kelley Worrell

Descendants of **WILLIAM WHITE**

**Margaret Claire Wallis and
Lydia Gardner Wallis**, Sponsored by
Roselyn Jane Adams Wallis

- Junior Associates are children who are descendants of members of the Illinois Mayflower Society. Visit our website, www.IllinoisMayflower.org, for an application and more information.
- To file a New or Supplemental Application, contact Membership Secretary, Don Sherman, at membership.illinoismayflower@gmail.com.

IN MEMORIAM: *Former Board Member Jon Austin*

Jon Nicholas Austin of Jacksonville, IL died on November 24, 2020 in Springfield, IL.

Jon was a kind and intelligent man with a passion for history, as evidenced by his activities.

He became a member of the Illinois Mayflower Society in 1980 as a William Bradford descendant. He joined the board of assistants as corresponding secretary in 1995 and held that position until 2004 when he took over as historian. He was the only historian from 2004 until 2010.

He was also very involved with the Great Prairie Colony for its entire existence, serving as its first Lt. Governor in 2003-2004, and multiple times thereafter.

Jon became friends with Don Sherman while they served on our board together. He portrayed Dr. Benjamin Franklin Lyford, a Civil War embalmer in Civil War reenactments



and living history presentations (*see page 5*). He was also active in the Illinois State Historical Society and other organizations.

Jon last worked as a Project Specialist for CCPRS. He worked with the Jacksonville Symphony Society and the Springfield Area Arts Council. In 2017, he started working with FEMA and spent a great deal of time working in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

He graduated from New York University with a Master's Degree in Museum Science.

Jon was born to parents Harold H. and Marjorie E. (Johnson) Austin on August 12, 1959. His parents preceded him in death, as well as his brother, Steven Lee Austin. Surviving Jon are his nephew, Stephen Austin, his niece, Stephanie Austin Mabee and his sister-in-law, Jan Austin, all of Peoria.

IN MEMORIAM

Katherine Hughes Galt Allen, John Howland
Jon Nicholas Austin, William Bradford
Ruthanne Baird, William Brewster
Nelson Clark Bennett, Myles Standish
John Alderman Dystrup, William White
Donald William Gant, Edward Fuller
Linnea Grace Ghilardi, Myles Standish
Alice Orndorff Gordon, Edward Fuller
John Whiting Gridley, William Bradford
Margaret Hart, Richard Warren, John Howland
David Kimball Hill, William Brewster
Joseph Edwin Jannotta, Edward Fuller
Myrtle Mildred Marie Kasten, William Brewster
Henry Siggins Leonard, James Chilton,
William Bradford, Francis Cooke
Charles Robert Lowes, Myles Standish
Joseph Alfred Merrill, William White
Linda Neubauer, James Chilton, John Billington
Maxine Marcella Piha, William Brewster
Elizabeth Porter Simms, William White
Margaret Helen Smith, John Howland
Ann Catherine Stanton, Degory Priest
Nancy Elizabeth Warner, William Brewster
Donald Richard Williams, William Bradford

*We are always saddened to hear of a member's passing.
If you have information regarding a death,
please contact Membership Secretary, Don Sherman:
membership.illinoismayflower@gmail.com.*

College Scholarships Available for Students

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Illinois has created an annual scholarship of \$2,500 to be awarded to a student entering college or currently attending college or graduate school. This is one of the largest scholarships awarded by any state society.

To be eligible, the applicant must be nominated by a member of the Illinois Mayflower Society. The scholarship will be awarded based upon academic achievement, extra-curricular activities, community service and financial need. The young scholar receiving this year's award will be honored at our **virtual spring meeting on May 15, 2021**.

A complete set of the qualifying criteria is available on our website at: www.illinoismayflower.com/scholarship. Completed applications and supporting documentation may be mailed or emailed to **Max Douglas Brown**, Chairman of Mayflower Scholarship Committee. 7575 Lake Street, 2A, River Forest, IL 60305 or email **Dr.Tort@comcast.net**. Any questions may be directed to Mr. Brown by email or phone, 708-420-6886.

• **Applications must be received by April 1, 2021.**

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants is also offering college scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are Mayflower descendants. Details at www.themayflowersociety.org/blog/scholarships

• **Applications must be received by March 15, 2021.**

Plymouth 400: Including the Wampanoag Nation

By Ann Wilkerson

“Ugh Ugh.”

These are the first and only words uttered by the character of Squanto in a play called “The First Thanksgiving Day.”

The play is in a book called *Little American History Plays for Little Americans*. Its copyright is 1919, and it is the only childhood book of my father’s to be given to me (*shown here*). When Daddy was a child in the 1920’s and when I was a child in the 1950’s, the Pilgrim Thanksgiving story did not vary much from the scene portrayed in this play.

For the 350th Mayflower anniversary in 1970, celebration organizers invited Frank Jones of the Wampanoag tribe to speak. He declined to participate when his remarks were censored and he instead made his speech in the shadow of Plymouth’s Massasoit statue. At the same time, the *Mayflower II* was seized by members of the American Indian Movement (AIM). Other members of AIM were then occupying Alcatraz to draw attention to indigenous American interests. A National Day of Mourning was established for the 4th Thursday of November.

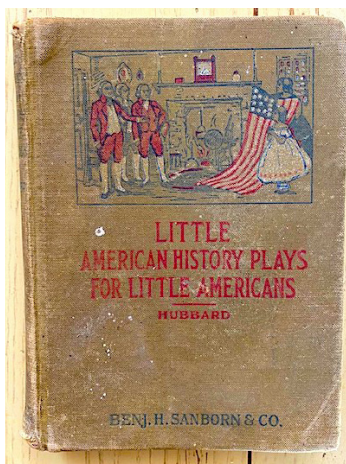
For 2020, the 400th anniversary was planned with four nations as equal participants: United States, United Kingdom, the Netherlands and the Wampanoag Nation.

Through a traveling exhibit now online, the Wampanoag Nation is presenting “OUR STORY: 400 Years of Wampanoag History.” Its purpose is to reveal little-known events and to celebrate the culture of “the people of the first light.”

Using explanatory segments and dramatizations, the Wampanoag representatives narrate their story beginning in 1614. During that year, over 20 Wampanoag men were lured onto an English ship by an offer to trade. Instead, they were captured and enslaved and transported against their will. Only one would return years later to find that entire villages were decimated by the plague called “the great dying.” The arrival of our ancestors brought English law, the Mayflower Compact, and low regard for the Wampanoag whose culture embraced the laws of nature, respect, generosity, gratitude, women’s authority, and conflict resolution.

The exhibit is not complete. There is to be a final chapter describing why and how the day we descendants observe as Thanksgiving is the Wampanoag National Day of Mourning. Despite this somber note, the Wampanoag ended their presentation thus far by expressing their gratitude to have been invited, supported, and sponsored by the Plymouth 400 committee.

• To learn more, go to the website: plymouth400inc.org/our-story-exhibit-wampanoag-history
Click the YouTube link to view the online exhibit.



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2021

Spring Meeting

Join Our Virtual Gathering on May 15!

As much as we would love to see everyone in person, the board has decided to hold our spring meeting virtually starting at **11:00 am (CST) on Saturday, May 15, 2021.**

A short program will be followed by time for members to chat and share information via Zoom.

Are you publishing your family history? Are you looking for help with historical research? Use the chat function to post your questions and alert the host that you would like to speak to the group.

The meeting is open to all members of the Illinois Mayflower Society, their families, guests and prospective members who have started the application process. An agenda and Zoom link (one per household) will be sent out shortly before the meeting.

A printed invitation with details of the program will be mailed to all members later this spring, but you must register in order to attend.

• **To register, send an email to Cary Stone-Greenstein at cstonegreenstein.ilmayflower@gmail.com.**



The Mayflower

The ship that carried our Pilgrims was named for a popular flower in England in the 1600s. It is known by many common names, including trailing arbutus, gravel plant, ground laurel, shadflower, mountain

pink, and winter pink. The mayflower was suggested as the Massachusetts floral emblem as early as 1893 when the Women's Congress at the Chicago World's Fair (The World's Columbian Exposition) began promoting the idea of a "National Garland of Flowers." It became the Massachusetts state flower in 1918. The violet is the state flower of Illinois.



On June 10, 1897, the charter of The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Illinois was granted by the Secretary of State in Springfield, Illinois. It became the first state society of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, founded in January, 1897. The first meeting was held on June 14, 1897, (Flag Day) at the Auditorium Hotel to adopt a constitution, bylaws, and elect officers.

ILLINOIS *Mayflower* NEWS

WINTER 2021

The Mayflower Society in the State of Illinois publishes a newsletter twice a year which is mailed to all current members. A digital copy, as well as back issues and other information, is available on our website: www.illinoismayflower.com

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Illinois

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Please contact Jan Harrington with news and stories for this newsletter.

Tell us *YOUR Mayflower Story* and how you came to be a member, how you published your family history, and other items of interest.

ILLINOIS

Mayflower NEWS



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Illinois

JOIN US ON ZOOM!

Saturday, May 15, 2021
11:00 am (CST)

VIRTUAL SPRING GATHERING

*Details on page 11
and on our website.*

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Visit our website: www.illinoismayflower.com

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For news from Plymouth and the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, visit the website:
www.themayflowersociety.org • Facebook: facebook.com/themayflowersociety