

Mayflower Messenger

Newsletter of the Oklahoma Society of Mayflower Descendants

October 2005

A Fitting Tribute

As reported in the Spring Issue of Mayflower Messenger, the Oklahoma Society received 206 Millennium Voyage tickets from the General Society of Mayflower Descendants to sell for \$25 each, with \$2 from each sale to benefit our state society. They were available our Spring Meeting in Tulsa. While we were a bit concerned, as only 49 of Oklahoma's 206 members had contributed to the cause, Carolyn Maples and her sister Ann Baptist Wyche came to our rescue with a check for \$2,925 for the remaining 117 tickets. This is their tribute to their recently deceased mother, Jane Baptist Witcher. We thank them for their generosity. This mythical voyage on the Mayflower will provide funds to expand the Plymouth facilities of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, to allow more vault storage for documents, additional reading room space, mailing equipment space and a host of other things.

Thanksgiving

is for the trust the pilgrims had so long ago.

is for the harvest the settlers learned to grow.

A is for America, the land in which we live.

 ${f N}$ is for nature and beauty which she gives.

K is for kindness, gentle words, thoughtful deeds.

S is for smiles, the sunshine we all need.

G is for gratitude...our blessings great and small.

is for ideas -- may wisdom e'er grow tall.

 ${f V}$ is for voices, singing, laughing, caring.

is for Indians, who taught about sharing.

N is for neighbors, across the street or sea.

is for giving of myself for a better me.

Adapted from an Internet poem by Judith A. Lindberg

Fall Compact Meeting

Quail Creek Country Club

3501 Quail Creek Rd, Oklahoma City 405-751-0811

~ November 19, 2005 ~

Board of Assistants' Meeting, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. General Meeting ~ 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Luncheon ~ Noon ~ \$15 per plate

Speaker: Dr. Katherine Mather Littell "The Many Faces of Myles Standish"

Dr. Katherine Littell has had a wide and varied career. Her education includes the Chateau Brillantmont, Lausanne, Switzerland, 1954; a B. A. In English Literature, magna cum laude, from Radcliffe College, 1958; German Exchange Service Scholarship to University of Munich, 1958-59; M. A. in German Literature, Harvard University, 1960; Ph.D. in Germanic Languages and Literatures, Columbia University, 1972; M. A. California Art History, California State University, 1994, with highest honors.

Dr. Littell taught at Columbia University, New York; Edinboro State College, Edinboro, PA, and Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA. She is also a real estate agent and an art and antiques dealer. Dr. Littell has received many prestigious awards, her writings have been in many publications, the articles reflecting her wide range of interests -- methods of teaching, German Studies, American Literature and art.

A widely sought-after speaker, Dr. Littell is a member of the Oklahoma Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Please remember to send your \$15 check with your reservation before November 14 to

Mildred Greenstreet, Treasurer 3220 S. Zunis Place, Tulsa, OK, 74105-2236 Telephone: (918) 743-7529



Mayflower Messenger Edifor:

Jeannine Burks Long 1201 Ponca Ave, Enid, OK 73703-7812 jeaniology@cox.net

Oklahoma Mayflower Spring Meetings

April 23, 2005 ~ The Fountains, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Minutes of the Board of Assistants' Meeting

In attendance: Marquetta Brown, Mildred Greenstreet, Lois Copley, Kathy Patterson, Malcolm Patterson, June McCuiston, Mary Craig, Barbara Holman, Charles O'Leary, D. Burton Howard.

Governor Marquetta Brown called the meeting to order. Minutes of previous meeting were read by Lois Copley and accepted. The Treasurer's Report was read by Mrs. Greenstreet and filed for audit.

Historian Kathy Patterson read the Historian's Report. She presented three new members with passports. Kathy brought up some books that had been donated and it was voted to donate three of the books to the Oklahoma State Historical Society. The other books will be put in a silent auction at the November meeting. The proceeds will go to the scholarship fund. She also brought up the fact that the Historian's office does not have a set of silver books. She has a few of them. A full set of books is located in the Tulsa Library and at the Oklahoma State Historical Society and possibly in the Lawton Library, but that does not help the Historian who lives in Hydro. It was voted that we buy them as we get new members.

Dr. Patterson gave the Scholarship Committee report. We have an excellent winner, Martin G. Urbina. Dr. Patterson urged all of us to push for more entries.

Gov. Marquetta Brown brought up several items. The General Society is trying to raise money for the improvement of the facilities in Plymouth. They are selling passports for imaginary Mayflower passage for \$25. We have 206 of the passports for sale and a number were sold at the meeting.

Mildred Greenstreet will go to the General Society meeting in September. The next meeting will be November 1 Oklahoma City, place to be announced. The meeting adjourned.

Lois Copley, Secretary

Minutes of the General Meeting

Gov. Marquetta Brown welcomed the members. Dr. Malcolm Patterson led the Pledge of Allegiance, Lois Copley read the minutes and Mildred Greenstreet gave the Treasurer's Report. Accepted and filed for audit. Kathy Patterson's Historian's Report showed three new members and named another whose paper has been approved. We are awaiting numbers. The General Society's imaginary Mayflower passage passports were brought up and some were sold. They are to raise money for the upgrade of the facilities in Plymouth.

Break for lunch. After the reading of the Compact by June McCuiston, she called the Roll of Ancestors. Gov. Marquetta Brown gave a most interesting program on the history of the Oklahoma Flag. Mrs. Louise Fluke designed it. Our governor presented the program in a period hat, talking as if she were Mrs. Fluke. Marquetta has written a book on the history of the Oklahoma flag. June McCuiston brought some real flags to show, including one that had a star with a "46" on it that served as the first flag. The meeting adjourned. - Lois Copley, Secretary

Those Seventeenth Century Women

Excerpted from <u>New York Newsletter</u>, a publication of the New York Mayflower Society

At the 110th Annual Meeting of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York, April 2005, Carol Berkin, Professor of American History at Baruch College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York spoke on the topic of Seventeenth Century New England Women. She pointed out that housewifery was a truly complicated and crafted skill requiring knowledge and abilities in areas in which 21st Century women are by and large ignorant and incompetent. A day in the diary of Mary Holyoke attests to the abilities of the 17th Century woman. She describes her tasks, which included slaughtering a pig and preparing its parts for good and other uses, tending the garden, preparing the meals over the open fire, watching the children, spinning the cloth, making the clothes and tending the sick. It was largely due to the strength, diligence and skills of the women that the early settlement in New England survived.

Professor Berkin has authored several books, including Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the Struggle For America's Independence.

Report on Mayflower Congress By Mildred Greenstreet

Katherine Littell and I had a very interesting time in Plymouth at the Mayflower Congress. We toured the newly enlarged library and liked what we saw.

On Sunday afternoon we attended the impressive opening ceremony of the Congress, where many were dressed as Pilgrims. Katherine's report covers this fully. Later we attended the reception in the back garden of the Mayflower House and were joined there by Mary Alice Foster and her son, Clay.

On Monday the Congress opened and we heard reports from all of the General Officers and Committee Chairs, then from the State Societies. We learned what was going on. Katherine was able to tell the Historic Sites Chair about a portrait of Myles Standish in full armor at Woolaroc Museum in Bartlesville. Frank Phillips, who was a Standish descendant, personally acquired much of Woolaroc's art collection during his lifetime.

On Tuesday, we heard a detailed report from Assistant Governor General Donald West who chaired the committee that suggested new Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Unfortunately, the vote for debate was defeated, and then the vote for acceptance of the new Articles of Incorporation was defeated. Therefore, there was no further discussion of the Bylaws. We had the election and installation of the new officers of the General Society and a receiving line for outgoing and newly elected officers. We enjoyed meeting and conversing with others from across the country.

Hovernor's Message

Marquetta G. Brown, Governor

Our November 19th meeting date is as about as close as we could get to Compact Day, which celebrates the signing of the Compact in the cabin of the Mayflower on November 21, 1620. This is our annual meeting and we have a full agenda. In addition to having a silent auction of a private collection of books concerning Pilgrim life, we will elect five members to the Board of Assistants.

Accolades to our hard working members: Historian Kathy Patterson reports we will welcome six new members and perhaps eight at the November meeting; Junior Chair Mary Craig has registered several new junior members; Secretary Lois Copley has the yearbooks ready to hand out; Treasurer Mildred Greenstreet did an excellent job of selling the Mayflower tickets for the Millennium Voyage; and Mayflower Messenger Editor Jeannine Long does a great job with our newsletter.

Mildred Greenstreet, our Deputy Governor General, attended the Triennial Congress of the General Society in September and will make a brief report to our membership. Dr. Katherine Littell, who also attended as our delegate, will give the program on her ancestor Captain Myles Standish.

We deeply appreciate the purchase of the Mayflower tickets by Carolyn Maples and her sister, Mrs. Brian L. Wyche as a memorial to their mother, Jane Baptist Witcher, a member of our Society who died last year. The sisters took over half the tickets and as a result the Oklahoma Society not only reached their quota but also was the first to do so. We give our humble thanks to Jane's devoted daughters.

It is not too late to purchase the passenger tickets for the Millennium Voyage of the Mayflower Society for \$25 each. It will help us reach our destination of expanding our research facilities in Plymouth and working with the New England Historical and Genealogical Society. This joint project is to digitize our historical files, to provide online research and electronic membership application processing. See Mildred Greenstreet for these historic tickets.

We appreciate the General Society Headquarters. Alice C. Teal and Harry P. Folger III have edited a booklet <u>Pilgrims at Prayer</u>, a little booklet with big information. Published by the Society, it contains a Pilgrim Prayer for every occasion. In its pages are an order of meeting, a service of remembrance to honor departed members, a procedure for the installation of officers and other general information. It is the hope of those who compiled the booklet that it will be an inspiration to all who read it and a helpful guide for the Governors, Elders, and other leaders of the Mayflower Society.

Please make your reservations for our November meeting early. We have a lovely room at the Quail Creek Country Club but limited space, with room for about fifty. If you don't make a reservation and call after the deadline, you may be disappointed. Plan to be there and make your reservation early.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are thankful that our ancestors braved the hardships to start Plymouth colony. We are grateful, too, that they had the foresight to draw up the Compact. *

Report of the Nominating Committee

The nominating committee, composed of Prentice Hapgood, Rosalee Majors and D. Burton Howard, offer the following slate of candidates for the 2005-2007 Board of Assistants:

Henry Baer – Oklahoma City Mary Craig - Tulsa Dr. Dorothy Frosch - Edmond Dr. Katherine Littell - Sand Springs Quembe Walkingstick - Yukon





A turkey breeder was always experimenting to perfect a better turkey. Since his family was fond of the leg portion and there were never enough legs for everyone, he was elated when he finally bred a turkey with six legs. Asked how it tasted the farmer replied, "I don't know . . . I never could catch the darned thing."

(Adapted from the Internet)

Silent Auction

The **Silent Auction** of the books about Pilgrim life, donated by **Sally Wiener**, will be held in a room adjacent to the **Quail Creek Country Club** dining room where we will meet in November. Starting bid is \$5 and may be raised in increments of \$1. If you can't attend the meeting and wish to participate, mail a bid to **Kathy Patterson**, **RR 1, Box 58, Hydro, OK**. At the close of the auction, mail-in bids will be opened. If they are higher, the book will go to the mail-in bidder. All funds raised from the sale of these books will go to our **Scholarship Fund**. This should be a fun way to increase the monies available for our Mayflower scholarship program. We donated three books about New England towns to the OKDAR Library at the Oklahoma History Center.

Proposed Changes to Bylaws

The Bylaws now state:

The rules contained in the 1990 edition of "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised", shall govern the State Society in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws, the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Society or any special rules of order which may be adopted.

Proposed changes are:

The rules contained in the <u>current</u> edition of "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised", shall govern the State Society in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws, the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Society or any special rules of order which may be adopted. The latest edition of "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised" shall become the current parliamentary authority 12 months after first publication with the immediately preceding edition governing until that time.

Rationale:

The underlined words are the proposed changes. The rationale is due to Robert's Rules of Order issuing a new edition every 10 years, the current edition will be used for 12 months after publication giving the parliamentarian time to become familiar with changes in the new edition.

If the proposed amendments are adopted, then Article V, Officers, Section 4, Duties, item j) The Parliamentarian shall perform the duties as specified in the 1990 edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised......will need to be changed to read, j) The Parliamentarian shall perform the duties as specified in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.......This would be done to be consistent with the adopted amendments to the Bylaws. Proposed by the Bylaws Committee, Quembe Walkingstick, Chairman Bylaws Committee

The rules contained in the <u>current</u> edition of "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised", shall govern the State Society in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws, the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Society or any special rules of order which may be adopted. The latest edition of "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised" shall become the current parliamentary authority 12 months after first publication with the immediately preceding edition governing until that time.

Rationale:

The underlined words are the proposed changes. The rationale is due to Robert's Rules of Order issuing a new edition every 10 years, the current edition will be used for 12 months after publication giving the parliamentarian time to become familiar with changes in the new edition.

If the proposed amendments are adopted, then Article V, Officers, Section 4, Duties, item j) The Parliamentarian shall perform the duties as specified in the 1990 edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised......will need to be changed to read, j) The Parliamentarian shall perform the duties as specified in the *current* edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised......This would be done to be consistent with the adopted amendments to the Bylaws.

Proposed by the Bylaws Committee
Ouembe Walkingstick, Chairman Bylaws Committee

Another Look at Consanguinity

By Bob Jones
Previously published in <u>RootsWeb Review</u>,
Vol. 8, No. 22, 1 June 2005.

... According to articles by John Tierney (New York Times, 9/28/03) and by Stanley Kurtz (National Review, 1/28/02) consanguineous (cousin) marriage is not an unusual situation in the Middle East, nor is it old-fashioned. It is the preferred and predominant tradition in many of the countries. Both articles are available on the Web; just "Google" the authors.

The claim of these articles is that the tradition ensures the strength of patrilineal family/kinship loyalty across marriages, since the wife is part of the same extended family as the husband. This clan/family loyalty is the strongest social factor in these societies, stronger than economic, religious or political loyalty. The authors also link this tradition to that of arranging marriage among cousins when they are children, and the veiling of woman to protect these "engagements."

There is also the comment that this was a dominant tradition in Europe until St. Augustine campaigned against it in the 4th century, because the resultant family loyalty was seen as a threat to church authority. (The Encyclopedia Britannica 2005 article on History of Family-medieval, supports this argument.)

We live in a world with many different traditions, and part of the fascination with genealogy is learning how people very much like us (genetically) lived and loved. Don't let the kids jump to the conclusion that what is different is automatically wrong. Get them to think about why such things happen, and why they feel as they do. It may make those great-great-grandparents appear as real people and not just oddities of research.

Isn't that why we are doing all this stuff? Self discovery?



It Is Not Too Late!

It would be wonderful to have a larger percentage of our Oklahoma Mayflower Society members participate in the Mayflower Millennium Voyage. Since we have sold over our initial allotment of tickets, the Oklahoma Society will receive \$4 per ticket for our state. Tickets may be sold to members and non-members. This project will enable the GSMD to digitize our historical files, provide online research and electronic membership application processing. Send your \$25 check per ticket made payable to GSMD to Mildred Greenstreet (contact information on front of this newsletter) and she will send your tickets to you and the checks and information to the General Society. If you have more questions, just ask Mildred. She'll know the answers.

Books donated by Sally Wiener, Oklahoma City, to the Oklahoma Mayflower Society

Plymouth History:

- One Small Candle: The Pilgrims' First Year in America.
 Thomas J. Fleming. 222 pages, indexed. Dust jacket. W. W. Norton & Co., 1964
- They Knew They Were Pilgrims: Essays in Plymouth History. L. D. Geller, ed. 213 pages. Dust jacket, stained. Poseidon Books, 1971.
- Three Visitors to Early Plymouth: Letters about the Pilgrim Settlement In New England During Its First Seven Years. Sydney V. James, Jr., ed. 84 pages, indexed. Plimouth Plantation, 1963.
- The Books of the Pilgrims. L. D. Geller, 91 pages. Garland Publishing, 1975.
- Pilgrim Colony: A History of New Plymouth, 1620-1691.

 George D. Langdon, Jr. 277 pages, indexed.

 Paperback. Yale University Press, 1966.
- The Pilgrims: Their Journeys and Their World. Francis Dillon. 250 pages, indexed. Dust jacket. Doubleday, 1975.
- A Little Commonwealth: Family Life in Plymouth Colony. John Demos. 201 pages, indexed. Paperback. Oxford University Press, 1970.
- A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth: Mourt's Relation.
 The 1622 text edited and with an introduction by Dwight B. Heath. 96 pages, illustrated.
 Paperback. Corinth Books, 1963.
- Journall of the English Plantation at Plimouth. Facsimile of Mourt's Relation. 72 pages. Readex Microprint, 1966.
- New English Canaan or New Canaan. Thomas Morton. 191 pages. Facsimile. Arno Press, Research Library of Colonial America, 1972.

Other New England History:

- The Puritan Family. Edmund S. Morgan. 196 pages, indexed. Paperback. Harper Torchbooks, 1966.
- Roger Williams: Church and the State. Edmund S. Morgan. 170 pages, indexed. Dust jacket. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1967.
- A Brief History of the Pequot War. John Mason.

 Facsimile. 20 pages, plus introduction. Readex Microprint, 1966.
- The Puritan Oligarchy. Thomas Jefferson Wertenbaker. 359 pages, indexed and illustrated. Paperback. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1970.

- The Intellectual Life of Colonial New England. Samuel Eliot Morison, 288 pages, indexed. Paperback. Cornell University Press, 1970.
- The Puritans: A Sourcebook of their Writings, Vol. 1.

 Perry Miller and Thomas H. Johnson, eds. 377

 + Ixviii, indexed. Paperback. Harper
 Torchbooks, 1963.
- Builders of the Bay Colony. Samuel Eliot Morison. 405 pages, indexed. Paperback. Houghton Miffin, 1958.
- A Rhode Islander Reports on King Philip's War: The Second William Harris Letter of August 1676.
 Douglas Edward Leach, ed. 95 pages.
 Facsimiles on end papers. Rhode Island Historical Society, 1963.
- Rhode Island: A History. William G. McLoughlin, 240 pages, indexed. Paperback. W. W. Norton & Co., 1986.
- Salem Possessed: The Social Origins of Witchcraft.
 Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum. 231
 pages, indexed, with maps. Paperback.
 Harvard, 1978.

Pamphlets:

- The Pilgrim and Mayflower Story: Chapters from Rotherhiths and Southwark. 56 pages, illustrated.

 Published by the Council of the London Borough of Southwark, ca 1970.
- Without a City Wall: A Short Guide to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, London. Compiled by Richard Tydeman. 24 pages. Foster Press, 1970.
- Boston Parish Church. [Boston, Lincolnshire, not Boston, MA.] Mark Spurrell. 22 pages. 1987. Plus Why Boston Stump? A Ten-Minute Guide to Boston Parish Church. 8 pages. 1978.

Dates given here are the latest printing.

Books below not included in auction as they have been donated to the Oklahoma Historical Society:

- Marshfield: The Autobiography of a Pilgrim Town. 356 pages, illustrated and indexed. Marshfield Tercentary Committee, 1940.
- Settlement and Growth of Duxbury, 1628-1870. Dorothy Wentworth. 144 pages, illustrated. Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, 1973.
- The Bicentennial Celebration of Litchfield, Connecticut.

 Compiled for the Litchfield Historical Society by
 Alain C. White. 174 pages, plus illustrations.

 Back cover missing. Enquirer Print, 1920.

A silent auction of these books will be conducted at the Fall Compact Meeting!

2005 Scholarship Winner

Martin G Urbina, a senior at Southwestern Christian University, won the 2005 Oklahoma Mayflower Scholarship. His wife, Clarissa Patterson Urbina, and children Joseph, Seth. and Emily Katherine, descend from John Howland, Richard Warren, and Stephen Hopkins.

Kathy Patterson says: "We met Martin when he was 13. He attended and became a Christian at one of my husband's children's evangelism campaigns in a suburb of Mexico City. He worked with Malcolm on Children's Ministries through his teen years, traveling to South America, California, and all over Mexico. He survived cancer when he was 18 or 19 and married our daughter soon after. He supported Clarissa though medical school, when they had their three children, and took care of everything during her internship and year of social service, when she was the only doctor in a mountain village on the slopes of a live volcano, 12 miles from the crater.

"After Clarissa graduated in 1999, their family moved to Oklahoma. Martin started his own college education at Southwestern Christian University. Along the way, he became proficient in English, worked two jobs and became a U.S. citizen on January 31, 2004.

"Martin and Clarissa are members of Lakeside Assembly of God and plan to return to Mexico City as missionaries. He would like to teach in a seminary, and she will continue to serve as a doctor to the poor. He recently graduated cum laude from SCU and will be pursuing a Master's Degree.

"Their sons attend the ASTEC Academy in Oklahoma City; Emily is in accelerated classes at Stonegate Elementary. All the children are involved and have won state or regional competitions in Bible Quiz, Fine Arts and Royal Rangers. Emily is also a Brownie." When they return to Mexico, the three Urbina children will be eligible to join a Mayflower Descendants chapter there.

Applications Sought for Scholarship

There was ONE application for the 2005 scholarship.

Please make your college-student relatives aware of this opportunity.

An award in the amount of \$1000 is being offered to a graduate or undergraduate student, enrolled in a four-year college of university, who is related to any member of the Oklahoma Society of Descendants of the Mayflower. The awarding of the scholarship will be based on college major, level of studies, grade point average and relationship to Mayflower passengers and Oklahoma Society members.

To apply, submit the following:

- 1. A letter stating your interest in the scholarship. Specify your current academic standing, major, degree, if any, with college and year received, and the intended year of receiving your next degree. Current college under-graduate and graduate students may apply.
- 2. All college transcripts including the most recent semester completed.
- 3. Two letters of recommendation from individuals who are personally acquainted with the applicant. At least one should be a former or present teacher of the applicant.
- 4. Proof of relationship to an Oklahoma Society Descendants of the Mayflower member or members and family tree showing relationship to the Mayflower passenger. Relationships by adoption or marriage are accepted.

Previous applicants may reapply by submitting updated transcripts. Deadline for applications: February 1, 2006. The recipient will be announced by April 1, 2006

Applications should be submitted to: Dr. Malcolm H. Patterson, Rt 1, Box 58, Hydro OK 73048

New Chilton Association Formed

Chilton's Children was formed in 2003 to perpetuate the memory of James Chilton, Leiden separatist, passenger on the Mayflower, and signer of the Mayflower Compact. In popular legend, James' daughter Mary was the first person to step out of the ship onto Plymouth Rock. Because both he and his wife died during the first winter, James Chilton is not as well known as many of the other pilgrims. There is a strong desire to make people more aware of the important part he and his family played in England, the move to Leiden, Holland, and the trip to the new world. The main goals of this new association are:

- 1. To perpetuate the memory of James Chilton, Mayflower passenger.
- 2. To assist descendants of James Chilton in acquiring acceptable proofs of eligibility for membership in the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and to encourage membership in that prestigious society.
- **3.** To build and maintain a genealogical database of our membership to aid in the establishment of a sixth and seventh generation project.

Their discussion group hosted by Yahoo! is open to all interested individuals. Information is available at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Chiltons-Children. Annual meetings are planned, but at this early development stage, the date/place has not yet been decided. Proven descendants of James Chilton through his daughter Mary or daughter Isabella are most cordially invited to join. Junior and Associate memberships are available as well. More information is available at the web site, http://www.chiltonschildren.org or directly from Robert Luce, Acting Governor, 1064 Poplar Ave., Fresno, CA 93728, e-mail: rluce@chiltonschildren.org.

Tours of the Historic Areas

Dr. Katherine Littell's report on her trip to the 37th General Congress in Plymouth

I hope all of you will consider attending the triennial 38th General Congress. The history learned and the friendships made enrich one's life immeasurably.

When I arrived at the Radisson at about 10 AM on September 9 I explained, as I registered, that I wanted to spend the day exploring! Our Governor General Robert E. Davis was standing near me, introduced himself and warmly endorsed my plans. I visited the Mayflower II, docked in Plymouth Harbor within walking distance of the hotel, which is an exact reconstruction of Mayflower I and constructed with 17th century tools. An English journalist raised the money for the project and in 1957 sailed with a crew using 17th century navigational instruments on the route of the Pilgrims in 1620. Re-enactors were on board to describe their journey and explain every item on the ship as well as their reasons for joining the Pilgrims or Master Jones' crew.

On the way to Mayflower Headquarters, I passed very impressive bronze statues of Governor Bradford, at street level in a semi-circle of flowering shrubs, and Chief Massasoit, sternly surveying Plymouth Harbor from the top of Coles Hill, where the Pilgrims buried their dead during the first terrible winter. Both statues were sculpted by Cyrus Dallin and installed for the 1921 Pilgrim Tercentenary. Both original castings were life-size, but in 1971 the statue of Governor Bradford was reduced in size and reinstalled. The life-size statue of the Pilgrim Mother, sculpted by Paul O. Jennewein and designed by McKim, Mead and White for the Tercentenary celebration of the Pilgrims' arrival in 1620, stands guard opposite the classical portico sheltering Plymouth Rock from the weather.

The Rock is much smaller than the massive boulder on which Mary Chilton first set foot in 1620. During the Revolution, the Rock was removed from the shore for fear of British bombardment, and broke in two large pieces, as oxen pulled it inland. Since then, souvenir seekers have diminished it by chipping off small segments. The two large sections have been cemented back together, and the Rock, now sheltered from the elements and souvenir-seekers by a granite portico, remains an eloquent memorial to the sufferings, vicissitudes and accomplishments of the Pilgrims.

The town brook nearby flows through Brewster Gardens, principally adorned by the Pilgrim Maiden Statue, sculptured by Henry H. Kitson in 1924. It is dedicated to "those intrepid English women whose courage, fortitude, and devotion brought a new nation into being." The Immigrant Monument stands nearby, honoring the later immigrants from every nation who came after the Pilgrims, 1700-2000.

Of all the historic sites on the city tour of Plymouth, i.e. Spooner House (1749), Howland House (1667), the 1749 Court House & Museum, Richard Sparrow House (1640), the Jenney Grist Mill, commissioned by the King for more efficient shipment of grain to England, Pilgrim Hall Museum (1824), Hedge House Museum (1809), Leyden Street with its plaques commemorating the owners of lots in the original settlement of Plymouth, the most compelling is the National Monument to the Forefathers (1889) (See Mayflower Messenger Oct 2004). Begun by the Pilgrim Society in 1859, it became, upon completion in 1889, the largest freestanding granite statue in the world. The design predates Bartholdi's Statue of

Liberty, unveiled in 1886. Four figures, commemorating the virtues, which brought the Pilgrims to the New World, are seated on the base of the monument: Morality, Law, Education and Liberty. Soaring above them is the figure of Faith, 216 times life size, pointing, towards heaven.

The house once owned by Edward Winslow, Governor of Plymouth Colony 1633, 1636 and 1644 houses the Headquarters of the Mayflower Society. Winslow became a very wealthy businessman and farmer. He composed and sent to England A Relation or Journall of the Beginning and Proceedings of the English Plantation Settled at Plimoth in New England, published 1622 in London and Good News From New England, published 1624. During the American Revolution, however, one of his descendants, who then owned the house, became a Tory and fled to Canada, when his property and employment were confiscated. Now owned by the Mayflower Society, the house of Governor Winslow, which has been modernized and expanded by subsequent owners, is still known as Winslow House.

A short walk through the garden leads to the Mayflower Library. Originally planned as a research aid for the Historian General in processing and approving applications, it is now available to anyone researching their family lineage. The library is located in a separate building surrounded by beautiful gardens and has an outstanding collection in the field of pilgrim genealogy and history. The staff assists researchers, historians, genealogists and occasionally tourists. They also accept lineage requests and other inquiries via email: gsmd.libr@vcrizon.net. There is a small research fee for nonmembers, a fee for using the copying machines and a fee for extensive research. The copy of an approved lineage paper costs \$10.00. The library is open Mondays through Fridays, 10:00 AM to 3:30PM. The address is General Society of Mayflower Descendants, PO Box 3297, Plymouth, MA 02361-3297.

The Saturday tour of Duxbury and Marshfield included visits to John Alden's house in Duxbury, the Isaac Winslow house with the office of Daniel Webster in backyard garden, the Elder Brewster house and the home of a shipbuilding family in Marshfield. The Alden house was a simple, clapboard farmhouse, much more substantial and spacious than the first dwellings of the Pilgrims in Plymouth. The home of Barbara and Myles Standish was located near the Alden House. It was still standing in 1871. We walked some of the original acreage of the Alden and Standish domiciles, which now border on the grounds of a school but still retain a view of the coastal waters.

The Isaac Winslow residence reflects the wealth and political power of its 18th century owners. A large dining room and drawing room attest to lavish entertainment. Family portraits in oil, unsigned and likely painted by itinerant artists, subtly elaborate the influence and status of the Winslow family, once to their guests and now to the tourists. John Winslow, Lieutenant Colonel in the Massachusetts militia, was a longtime resident of the Isaac Winslow House in Marshfield. In 1755 he commanded His Majesty's troops at the removal of the Acadians from Grand Pre, Nova Scotia. John Winslow wrote very disparagingly of this military service in a letter to a friend: "I know they deserve all and more than they feel; yet it hurts me to hear their weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. I am in hopes our affairs will soon put on another face, and we get transports, and I rid of the worst piece of service that ever I was in." On October 1 of this year, a Symposium, "The Acadian Odyssey and New England's Role, was held at the Isaac Winslow on the history of the Acadian Removal. Lieutenant Colonel John Winslow also commanded Fort William Henry on Lake George, prior to the

arrival of the Scottish Colonel Munro who figured in the film, <u>The Last of the Mohicans</u>. The King Caesar House in Marshfield, exquisitely decorated with imported rugs, scenic wallpaper, imported from France and fine furniture, is an eloquent testimonial to the achievements of the 18th century Pilgrim descendants. The conspicuous repetition of nautical motifs and decorative devises throughout the house indicate the Weston family forgot neither the source of their wealth nor their origins.

The monument to Miles Standish was closed to tourists due to vandalism. The twelve-foot tall, bronze statue of Myles Standish rises one hundred and ten feet from its base on Captain's Hill. He is depicted in full uniform. His face is said to be a true likeness. His right arm and hand point toward the sea. The shaft on which the statue stands is twenty-eight feet at its base, and the entire structure is of the best Quincy granite. Despite this size, we could not catch a glimpse of it, as we drove through Duxbury. It became perceptible from Clark's Island and Plymouth. We were able to visit the gravesite of Captain Standish in the Duxbury Cemetery. A huge granite boulder marks his grave. There is no inscription on it, but it is about the size of Plymouth Rock. On either side of the boulder are the marked graves of his daughter, Lora, who died sometime before 7 March 1655, and his daughter-in-law, Mary Dingley, first wife of Josiah Standish. She died 1 July 1655. The graves of both women are marked with their first names only on plaques, secured to large, granite boulders on either site of the Myles Standish boulder. Strangely, Barbara, the second wife, who died after 6 October 1659, is not buried with her husband. Four canons, pointed downward in restful positions, are stationed protectively at the four corners of the gravesite.

On Sunday, we attended a service conducted by the Elder General, a Methodist Minister, Rev. Wesley Allen. A drummer met us at the foot of the hill leading up to the Plymouth Plantation-Fort/Meetinghouse. The solemn drumbeat, as we marched up the hill, evoked the Sunday ceremony of our Pilgrim ancestors. The pastor led the congregation to church; on his right walked the Governor and on his left Captain Myles Standish.

In the church the drummer read aloud one of the psalms, and we repeated after him, line by line. We sang two hymns, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," and "Great is thy Faithfulness." We said in unison the 23rd Psalm. The theme of the sermon was "Surely, God is with us." The concluding hymn was "Blest be the tie that binds."

That afternoon we marched in procession, The Pilgrim Progress, from Mayflower Society House to Cole's Hill for a wreath-laying by Governor General Robert E. Davis and the reading of the names of the 51 Mayflower passengers who died the first winter. Again, the drummer led us. Tourists and spectators along the way applauded us. We then marched to the First Parish Church for a ceremony opening the 37th Congress, followed by necrology, and reading of the Mayflower Compact and Roll Call of Ancestors. We sang "America" with two additional verses, "Our Loved Dominion" and "Two Nations," provided by the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendents. We then marched to Winslow House for a rededication of the Library and a reception in the Garden.

On Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. a motorboat transported us from Duxbury to Clark's Island, where the Pilgrims first landed. We walked to Pulpit Rock, an immense and very impressive boulder in the midst of a clearing. Instead of a minister, such as addressed the Pilgrims, a Harvard Professor, a black man, described to us his experiences as a librarian in the City of Plymouth library. He went on to say that the application of DNA testing would eliminate some of our cousins and bring us new cousins, whom we might be

reluctant to welcome. He, his family and neighbors were residents of Plymouth and, like the Indians, were curious about us and when we would leave. Unlike the Indians he, his family and neighbors would be here next year to welcome us back.

Upon my return to Plymouth, I visited Plymouth Plantation, which is located about five miles from the site of the original settlement. I looked for Myles Standish and Barbara and visited their very modest home, although they were not there. I saw a replica of his armor perched on a chest of drawers, a fireplace, kitchen utensils and bed. I went across the street to the home of Francis Cooke.

Goodwife Cooke and her daughter were enjoying a lobster they had roasted on the fire. They did not offer me a taste, but Mrs. Cooke invited me to sit and visit with her. Her accent, yeoman English enlivened by the lilting intonation she acquired in Holland, her demeanor, her choice of words and syntax were so reminiscent of another era, I felt for a moment I was seeing a ghost. She had to invite me three times to sit down and visit before I did so.

Mrs. Cooke told me her husband Francis Cooke came on the Mayflower with their son, John. Her maiden name was Hester Mayhieu. They were married in Leyden 30 June 1603. Her husband, like Miles Standish, I was amazed to learn, was a woolcomber. She arrived in Plymouth on the Anne in 1623 with her daughter, Jane, and son, Jacob, to join her husband. Barbara Standish also sailed on the Anne, and they became very good friends. Mrs. Cooke told me Barbara was not among the exiles in Leiden, she came from England somewhere. They had been neighbors now in Plymouth for four years and were still very close friends. They often talked about the terrible winter of 1620-21, which they had avoided.

John Billington and his family also avoided the first winter by living in a cave, which they dug for themselves, instead of building a wood shelter. They never got sick. Life in Plymouth was much better in 1627 than it ever had been before.

I asked Goodwife Cooke if the colony had a doctor or midwife to deliver its children. She told me such assistance at childbirth was not available to the "ordinary people." Close friends and neighbors assisted each other. It was a social time for women. They cheered and skillfully helped the mother to be. Only married women were permitted to be present at the birth of a child. Unmarried women were forbidden to be present and could incur a jail sentence, if they disobeyed.

Mrs. Cooke also told me that a woman could change her husband's mood with cooking. For, example if he was depressed, she used an abundance of garlic. Mrs. Francis Cooke was enchanting and totally convincing as a 17th century "Good wife." As I left her delightful company, I felt I had experienced something like <u>Brigadoon</u>.

Tidbits from the 37th General Congress

- Membership is now 26,733, up 397 from previous year
- Three women will soon have their own lines of descent for applicants: Mary Norris (wife of Isaac Allerton), Elizabeth Fisher (wife of Stephen Hopkins), and Joan Hurst (wife of John Tilley
- DNA Projects goal is to find "Y" line matches for origins of "mystery" Pilgrims. Three Englishmen surnamed Alden submitted DNA but none matched American male Alden descendants. There are many more Aldens in the U.K. than in the U.S.

Emily S. Palmer - from Colorado's The Pilgrim Times