

THE MAYFLOWER MESSENGER

Official Publication of the Oklahoma Society of Mayflower Descendants

Volume 16 - Number 1

March 2016

Governor's Message

Governor Stuart Denslow

Dear Oklahoma Mayflower Descendants:



Celebrate with us!

Consider the dramatic changes during the past 396 years since our ancestors arrived in this New World. It appears that the further our lives become distant from an event that the story and history of the occurrence may often be forgotten and neglected in our

culture. It is 396 years since our ancestors arrived and founded the Colony of New Plymouth. The settlement of this Colony prompted the Puritans settlement of Massachusetts Bay ten years later. At the time, Virginia had been dying and seemed to revive and flourish from the New England example.

Do our U. S. citizens, young and older alike, know this history and appreciate the significance of the Mayflower Compact? Do they realize the Mayflower Compact was based on the Magna Carta, written 400 years prior to the Mayflower Compact? Years later (156 yrs.), it became the germ/roots or the source of our Declaration of Independence.

The English Magna Carta, written more than 400 years before the Mayflower Compact, established the principle of the rule of law. In England this still mostly meant the king's law. The Mayflower Compact continued the idea of law made by the people. This idea lies at the heart and soul of democracy. The Magna Carta is 800 years old today.

Currently, we are writing letters to our U.S. Representatives and Senators, reminding them

SPRING MEETING Oaks Country Club

6500 S 49th W Ave, Tulsa, OK

Saturday, March 19, 2016

Board of Assistants Meeting – 9:30 a.m.

General Meeting – 11:00 a.m.

Noon Luncheon

Speaker,

Governor General Lea Filson

Menu:

Slow Roasted London Broil of Beef, Roasted Potatoes, Asparagus, Lettuce Wedge, Warm Rolls/Butter; New York Cheese Cake

\$ 23 per plate

Deadline for registration is March 8.

No cancellations or refunds after that date.

(Reservation form, p. 3)

of the future 400th anniversary and urging them to mint a commemorative coin.

The Oklahoma Society was formed sixty-nine years ago to perpetuate the memory of our Pilgrim Fathers and to commemorate the principle for which a small band of people exiled themselves on shores of a wilderness in the New World in search of religious and civil liberty. As descendants of the historic founders of Plymouth, Massachusetts who came here to live, do we perpetuate our ancestors' memory by:

- Talking with or sharing of the Plymouth Colony with family members, friends and neighbors to preserve this history?

(Continued on p. 4)



Introducing our Honored Guest, Governor General Lea Filson

Once she learned she was a descendant, Lea Filson joined the Louisiana Mayflower Society, a relatively small society, which allowed her to be quite involved. She has served as State Public Relations Chair, state newsletter editor, State Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary prior to election in May 2002 as Louisiana State Governor. She is presently Louisiana Deputy Governor. Lea is descended from Mayflower passengers Isaac Allerton, Mary Norris Allerton, Mary Allerton Cushman, and Degory Priest.

In 2002, Lea was appointed General Society Insignia Chair. Lea attended Congress in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina evacuation from New Orleans. While there, she learned she had lost her home, but luckily the GSMD insignia was safe on the fourth floor of a storage unit. She sold insignia at that Congress, using only photos, with the help of her Mother, Ellen Sinclair of the Illinois Society. She continued as Insignia Chair until 2012.

In 2010, she reworked the GSMD website and oversaw its changes until turning it over to Plymouth staff. It is continually updated with new content and over 4000 members were registered as of December 2014.

At the 2005 Congress, Lea was elected Executive Committee Member at Large and was reelected in 2008. In 2011, she became Assistant Governor General until her 2014 election as Governor General.

Lea's career includes many years on-air as a broadcaster in both television and radio. Her consulting company, LEAF Communications, specializes in media, marketing, and public relations. She is Director of Communications for the New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation. Lea is happily married to Ronald Coulter Filson.

The topic of Lea's program is "Progress of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants: What that means to you and why this is a really exciting time to be a member!"

We Welcome Our Newest Members

993	David Wood Harlow	Wagoner, OK	Richard Warren
994	Michael Oseland	Mustang, OK	William Brewster
995	Bonnie Alvis Purser	San Antonio, TX	Richard Warren
996	Elizabeth Tatum Stewart	Stillwater, OK	William White
997	Kadi Leonard	Oklahoma City	Isaac Allerton



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MARCH

8

MAYFLOWER LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ dinners at **\$23.00** per plate \$_____

Optional Donation to the Oklahoma Society of Mayflower Descendants _____

Total \$_____

Member Name _____ Guest Name _____

Member Address: _____ Guest Name _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Will you need a paper name tag? YES No, I have a Mayflower nametag

My check payable to the Oklahoma Society of Mayflower Descendants is enclosed.

Please mail this form with your check made payable to
Oklahoma Society of Mayflower Descendants to:
Laurie Robinson, Treasurer, 9789 Hefner Village Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73162-7764

Did you know?

The Pilgrims did not name Plymouth, MA, for Plymouth, England. “. . . It had been dubbed that years earlier by previous explorers to the region, and was clearly marked as Plymouth (or Plimoth—spellings varied) on maps that the Mayflower’s captain surely had on hand. It is sheer coincidence that the Mayflower ended up sailing from a town called Plymouth in England and then landing in a town called Plymouth in America. . .” www.history.com



Mayflower Society Junior Members

Junior members may join the Mayflower Society if they are between the ages of birth to age 18. Once they have joined, they may remain as Junior members until they turn 25. They are sponsored by a relative (i.e., Parent, Grandparent, Aunt, Uncle, etc.) who is a current member of the Mayflower Society. Junior members are not required to complete an application proving descent from a Pilgrim. A short, one-page form is completed by the sponsor and sent to the Junior Membership Chairman, accompanied by a \$6.00 fee, payable to the Oklahoma Society of Mayflower Descendants. This application is available for download on the our state’s website: <http://www.okmayflower.com/> (Under the Membership tab, select “Print Junior Application”), A Junior membership certificate, suitable for framing, may be sent to either the sponsor or to the junior member.

A Facebook group is available to all Mayflower Junior members, potential Junior members, State Junior Membership Chairmen, and those interested in perpetuating Mayflower Juniors knowledge about their Pilgrim ancestors through activities, scholarships, events, newsletters, meetings, etc. “GSMD Jr Mayflower Descendants” is closed Facebook group; you must be approved to have access and join the group.

Want to know more? I'll be happy to answer any questions.

Norma Hughes, Junior Membership Chairman - nmhughes@cox.net - (405) 474-1011

Governor's Message

(Continued from p. 1)

- Participating in patriotic activities in our local and state levels as a representative of The Oklahoma Mayflower Society?
- Gaining the satisfaction of aiding the education of the youth of America and helping ensure they understand the contributions of the Mayflower era to American life today in 2016?

What will be your legacy? Will your family share your stories of your ancestor(s) with the next generation? This is an important question to ask yourself. If you answer "no", then start sharing your stories now around the kitchen table. Have you volunteered to go into your grand and/or great grandchildren's schools?

It is important to acknowledge the excitement and build upon the many successes the General Society Mayflower Descendants is presently enjoying and never let our Country forget the important steps our Mayflower ancestors took in founding our wonderful country.

Come to your March 19th luncheon meeting and present Governor General Lea Sinclair Filson with a grand Oklahoma welcome. It's a great time to be a descendant of the Mayflower Society. Consider inviting your good friend, neighbor, niece and nephew to be your guest to join you. They may have a direct line ancestor who arrived in Plymouth or they may be able to go in on your proven lineage if they are a relative. They will bring enthusiasm and new ideas with them.

Honoring our Legacy -- Celebrating Freedom,

Stuart Denslow

OK Society On Facebook

As announced in November, our state society now has private Facebook page. If you are a Facebook subscriber please contact page manager Norma Hughes, at: nmhughes@cox.net, and provide your OK Society number, name and email address to become a subscriber to this page.

The page's purpose is to be a forum for discussing topics of common interest to our members, a location where only our members may post questions or informational items about our General Mayflower Society or our state society, or ask questions about conducting research. Appropriate posts include questions about activities, projects and membership news. We are a non-political society and postings must pertain to Mayflower business.

OK Society Name Tags

Do you have a magnetic Oklahoma Mayflower Society name badge? They are still available. To order, specify on a piece of paper how you wish your name to appear on the badge, make your check for **\$13** each payable to Oklahoma Society of Mayflower Descendants, add **\$3** if you wish to have it shipped to you, and mail it to the address below. If your order is placed prior to **November 1**, you can pick up your badge at the spring meeting registration table. Please mail order and check to:

Stuart Denslow, 5721 W. Orlando Circle,
Broken Arrow, OK 74011-1137



In Memoriam

Myrna Hope Greene OK 765, GS 40421 7-23-1918 – 11-14-2015	Robert Lawrence Alvis OK 793, GS 71305 12-19-1934- 12-24-2015
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SAVE THE DATE
FALL COMPACT MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2016
The Greens Country Club
Oklahoma City, OK

The Mayflower Messenger Editor is Jeannine Burks Long.
Please mail materials for publication to her at 1225 North Canyon Way, Guthrie, OK, 73044-3942,
or email to jeaniology@cox.net with "Mayflower Messenger" in the subject line.