

The Mayflower Messenger

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OKLAHOMA SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

SPRING MEETING, SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2013

OAKS COUNTRY CLUB, 6500 South 49th West Avenue

Tulsa, OK (918) 446-6161

Board of Assistants Meeting 9:30 a.m.

General Meeting 11:00 a.m.

Luncheon, \$20 each Noon



*Chicken Crepes with Herb Supreme Sauce
Rice Pilaf and Julienne of Vegetables - Oak's House Salad - Brownie Sundae*

Program – *The Ark and the Dove* - 1 p.m.

Presented by Barbara Herndon

Reservations: Please send your check (\$20 per attendee) made payable to The Oklahoma Society of Mayflower Descendants to Lauri Ann Robinson, Treasurer, 9789 Hefner Village Blvd., Oklahoma city, OK 73162-7764. Please be sure that Lauri has your check or notify her by April 6, 2013 if you will attend.

About our Program – “The Ark and the Dove”

Barbara Ansley Herndon is Past President of the Tulsa Society, a past officer of the Tulsa Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, and a member of Colonial Dames, Daughters of the American Colonists, and First Families of the Twin Territories. The Ark and the Dove were two ships which sailed from England in 1634 to establish the first settlement in Maryland. To hear about the background, departure, perilous voyage across the ocean, their Jamestown landing and journey up the Chesapeake Bay to Maryland, we will all wish to attend this spring meeting.



<http://www.okmayflower.com/>

Check out our website!

Be informed!



2013-2014 OFFICERS

Governor Judith Forehand
 Deputy Governor Jeannine Long
 Secretary LuCinda Melton
 Treasurer Lauri Robinson
 Historian Kathy Patterson
 Captain David Knight
 Elder Stuart Denslow
 Surgeon Gary Denslow
 Counselor George H. Ramey

New Members Since Fall 2012

Welcome!

Betty Ruth Cave Kauer OK#959, GS#85182
12/18/12, Stephen Hopkins

Brian McWaters OK#960, GS#85183
12/18/12, John Alden

Patrick H. Roark OK#961, GS#85184
12/18/12, Thomas Rogers

Jennifer Seargent OK#962, GS#85247
1/2/13, John Alden

Sharon K. Weaver OK#963, GS#85344
2/2/2013, James Chilton

Forefathers

*Look back 300 years and more:
A group upon a rock-bound shore,
Borne by the Mayflower o'er the sea,
Pledged hearts and lives to liberty.*

*They were the few we hail with pride
Singing: "Land where our fathers died,"
Daring to die that this might be
Forever: "Land of the noble free."*

*At Plymouth Rock they could not know
How far their shadows then would go,
That freedom (as today we sing)
From every mountainside should ring.*

*"Our Fathers' God to Thee" I pray
That we, devoted as were they,
Who sing: "Long may our land be bright"
Shall cherish: "Freedom's holy light."*

Edgar A. Guest

Dr. Stuart Denslow will conduct a Remembrance Ceremony at our Spring meeting in honor of the following members:



In Memoriam

OK #638 Jack Layne Sterett died 3-5-2012

OK #427 Sidney Patterson died 4-27-2012
Former Governor

OK #704 Mrs. Edward Gregory died 5-9-2012

OK #63 Albert H. Brewster, Jr. died 6-18-2012

OK #256 Louis Patterson died 10-4-2012
Former Parliamentarian

OK #956 Jackie de la Houssaye died 11-8-2012

Early American Ancestors

Jeannine Burks Long, Deputy Governor

It started innocently enough – my reading binge -- with *The Forgotten Founding Father, Noah Webster's Obsession and the Creation of an American Culture* [Joshua Kendall, 2010]. I learned that Noah's mother, Mercy Steele, was a great-great-granddaughter of Gov. William Bradford (*ancestor of my grandchildren*). Noah's interest in early Massachusetts history had led to his editing of, in 1790, the journal of Gov. John Winthrop (my cousin).

That, of course, reminded me that ten years ago, after I had successfully completed my search to prove the relationship between MY John Winthrop and Gov. John Winthrop, the book was published *John Winthrop, America's Forgotten Founding Father* [Francis J. Bremer, 2003]. It contained a family tree chart and the information on page six that MY John, the governor's uncle, was "a brawler and scoundrel." Whee! I had finally found my black sheep! By the way, I wonder how many "forgotten founding fathers" books have been written.

Back to Noah. An obsessive compulsive, he was determined to create "a unified, definitively American culture, distinct from the British, at a time when the United States of America were anything but unified." His blue-backed speller for schoolchildren sold millions of copies and he worked for the adoption of an early copyright law. He was also a newspaper publisher. He labored over his dictionary of American English for 40 years and had bouts of mental instability. This story provides a rare insight into the life of a young country, as its citizens struggled to find work, educate their children and support their families.

My interest piqued about Revolutionary times, I read next *Independence, The Struggle to Set America Free* [John Ferling, 2011], which captures "how it really happened" from the first meetings of the Continental Congress as they got to know each other, to the conclusion – voting for independence and the writing and signing of the Declaration of Independence. Descendants of John Alden and Priscilla Mullins know we are cousins of President John Adams, but re-reading how very instrumental he and his activist second cousin Samuel Adams were to the ultimate outcome was stirring. *Wikipedia* : "John Quincy Adams, Sixth President of the United States, was conscious of his heritage. . . [he] thought that Hannah Bass, granddaughter of John and Priscilla Alden, was the one who added new vigor to the Adams family . . . and thereby affected his own makeup."

Like the Energizer bunny, I just kept going – Now I'm reading *Founding Brothers, The Revolutionary Generation* [Joseph J. Ellis, 2003], about the "intertwined lives of the founders of the American republic," **Adams/Burr/Franklin/Hamilton/Jefferson/Madison**, which has been on my bookshelf for years. One of the nicest things about advanced age is that you can re-read an old book and think it's brand new!

Founding Brothers, p. 216: "As Adams remembered it, 'all the great critical questions about men and measures from 1774 to 1778' were desperately contested and highly problematic occasions, usually 'decided by the vote of a single state, and that vote was often decided by a single individual.' . . . The real drama of the American Revolution, which was perfectly in accord with Adams's memory as well as with the turbulent conditions of his own soul, was its inherent messiness . . . that they were making it up as they went along, improvising on the edge of catastrophe."

Makes me a little less anxious now about Washington D.C. – maybe government has always been messy.

Also on my bookshelf: *Revolutionary Mothers, Women in the Struggle for America's Independence* [Carol Berkin 2005]. Here we find Mary Otis Warren, who felt it was her duty to participate in the Patriot cause during the American Revolution. Her brother was the noted patriot lawyer James Otis, and they were descended from Mayflower passenger Edward Doty. Her husband James was a descendant of fellow Mayflower passenger Richard Warren. "It was difficult enough for women to continue to perform their familiar domestic duties. It was daunting to take on the duties of their absent husbands as well." This story of "washerwomen, generals' wives, enslaved workers, loyalists, and patriots" enhances our understanding of the history of American independence. I must re-read it!

~ Gun Laws in Plimoth Colony ~

Did you know that the residents of Plimoth Colony passed laws governing firearms back in the early 1600's? The one major difference from today: Any member of the militia who came to church in Plimoth Colony WITHOUT a loaded gun was subject to a 12 pence fine. Iowa Hawkeye Newsletter - 2006

Governor's Message

It looks as if Spring has sprung a little early at my house. The daffodils are all in bloom, and the weeds are descending on my lawn. Yard work will take over shortly here in Southwest Oklahoma. The Fall and Winter have been very busy for me with my various civic clubs, organizations and The Old Greer County Museum & Hall of Fame, Inc., where I work a couple of days a week.



I was privileged to do programs at the Oklahoma Genealogy Society and the Edmond Genealogy Society in November. That resulted in a lot of media exposure for our Oklahoma Society of Mayflower Descendants.

I feel very privileged to be your Society Governor and look forward to meeting many of you over the next two years. Here is a little background on me so you will know me better. I was born and raised near Meeker, Oklahoma, in Lincoln County. Both sets of my grandparents, the Fairs and the Simpsons, came to Central Oklahoma near the turn of the twentieth century. I graduated as Valedictorian at Meeker and went on to Central State College in Edmond. I married Karl Forehand, Jr., in 1963, and he passed away in 2009 after forty-six years of marriage. Some of you remember Karl from earlier Mayflower meetings. I have five children, one step-daughter, twelve grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The family lives in over six states now, so travel is one of my favorite things to do in my semi-retirement. I retired in 2006 as Postmaster of the Mangum Post Office after twenty-five years with the Post Office. We moved to Southwest Oklahoma in 1980 for career purposes, and now it is home to me.

Barbara Herndon will present our program at the spring meeting in Tulsa. The Denslow family recommended her, and she accepted. Imagine my surprise when I learned that she was the same Barbara Herndon who is a supporter of the Museum in Mangum where I work as Office Manager. She has very deep roots here in Southwest Oklahoma, and even has an ancestor whose monument is included in our Pioneer Hall of Fame. It is a small world, as I find more and more people connected to people I already know. How grateful I am for the opportunity to get to know many more around this great state of Oklahoma.

Judith (Judy) Forehand

Let's Go Shopping!

Mildred Greenstreet will have the following for sale at the Spring meeting:

The Mayflower Story DVD -- \$16.40. Checks payable to Mildred Greenstreet. This is great for members, children, and grade schools. In Tulsa they study U. S. History in the 5th grade.

Lineages of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Oklahoma, © 1959, compiled by Lewis Edwin Neff, who started our Society -- \$5.00. Make checks payable to the Oklahoma Society of Mayflower Descendants. Included in the book is a short history of the General Society and how the Oklahoma Society was formed.

1973 Membership booklets -- \$1.00. The proceeds of the sale of these booklets also support our organization.



The Mayflower Messenger is edited by Sharlee Henshaw Kuhns. Materials for publication should be sent to her at 10812 North 155th East Avenue, Owasso, OK 74055- 5246, or email: kuhnss@sbcglobal.net with *Mayflower Messenger* in the subject line. Substitute Editor for this issue: Jeannine Burks Long.