

THE MAYFLOWER MESSENGER

Official Publication of the Oklahoma Society of Mayflower Descendants

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March 2017

Governor's Message

Governor Patrick H. Roark



Dear Mayflower Descendants:

On December 6 I sent an email to those members of our Society for whom I had email addresses. A good number of the emails were returned as undeliverable, most to cox.net addresses. I believe communication between your officers and the membership is critical to a vital Society. I hope you agree and will be sure that I have the information we need to communicate on a regular basis. If you have email and did not receive the December 6 email, please send your email address to me at patrickhroark@gmail.com and to Jeannine Long at jeaniology@cox.net. Keeping track of 260 members is a challenge. Thank you for your responses.

The charter for our state society has been misplaced or lost. If you have any information about its location or even a copy, please let me know.

Following is an edited version of the Dec 6 email:

For those of you who were not present at the Fall Compact Meeting, let me introduce myself. I live in Bartlesville where I practiced law until I retired. I was very surprised and pleased to find some four years ago that I was a descendant of Thomas Rogers as well as numerous Revolutionary War veterans. This reaffirmed my belief in the importance of educating our youth about the freedom our ancestors worked so hard for and sacrificed to obtain for us. That will be what I emphasize during my term as Governor.

Reviewing the new Membership Directory I see that we have about 250 members of our Society, yet only small percentage of our members attend the two annual meetings. The Spring meeting announcement is in this newsletter. We hope to see you there. Save the date for the Fall Compact Day meeting to be held Saturday, November 18, at the Greens Country Club, 13100 Green Valley Dr., OKC. Try to attend!

We are an aging Society. A heritage society can only survive if its members bring in new members, not only from among their own descendants, but also from other eligible prospects. We all need to do our part in that regard. (Continued on page 3)

Spring Meeting

Oaks Country Club

6500 S 49th W Ave, Tulsa, OK

Saturday, April 1, 2016

Board of Assistants Meeting – 9:45 a.m.

General Meeting – 10:45 a.m.

Luncheon – 11:30 Program -- 12:15

Luncheon Speaker, Dr. Samuel Negus

Program: "The Elizabethan Reformation and the religious motivations for the Puritan migration"

Our speaker, Samuel Negus, was raised in central England, and developed a fascination with American history as an undergraduate at the Univ. of Bristol. After graduating with a B.A. in 2003 he then relocated to Atlanta, where he earned a Master's degree in 2005 before going on to doctoral work at Texas Christian University in Ft. Worth. He spent the last three years teaching at Hillsdale College in southern Michigan as a visiting professor, and has since the fall of 2016 been assistant professor of history and political science at Oklahoma Wesleyan University. He lives in Bartlesville with his wife, daughter and brave-but-stupid dog. His hobbies mostly consist of cheering for sports teams that lose.



Luncheon Menu

Tossed Green Salad, Lemon Parmesan Chicken,
Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables.
Dessert: White Chocolate Mousse.

\$ 25 per plate

**Deadline for registration is March 22.
No cancellations or refunds after that.**

(Reservation form, p. 4)



Elected and Installed at the Fall Compact Meeting and Luncheon at the Greens Country Club in Oklahoma City were the **2017-2018 Officers**. Above, L-R: Governor Patrick Roark; Treasurer Lauri Robinson; Deputy Governor Pamela Hill; Secretary Ray Meritt; Captain Mathew Roark; Historian Katherine Patterson; and Elder Norma Hughes.



Above, Mary Meritt (left) and Orriene Denslow (right) visit with Ray Meritt, our new Secretary. Orriene has been an able assistant for her husband, 2015-2016 Governor Stuart Denslow.



Above, L-R: Historian Kathy Patterson introduced a member from Texas, Bonnie Alvis Purser, and presented Mayflower passports to new members Terrienne Frosch Lowe, Jamilynn Burroughs Youngberg, Leslie Allen Wiseman and Carol Ann Bowers Batterton. **Welcome!**



An Obscure Fact

The speaker at our Fall Compact Meeting, **John Waldron**, an outstanding teacher, had been asked to speak about three things we didn't know about the Pilgrims. He chose the significance of the Mayflower Compact, King Philip's War, and the contributions of Squanto. If you could use a little memory refresher about Squanto, here is a link: <http://mayflowerhistory.com/tisquantum/>.

Native American Squanto, kidnapped in our country, was taken to England, learned to speak English and the ways of the Englishmen, and was sent back in time to greet the Pilgrims. He taught our ancestors to bury a fish (for fertilizer) with the corn they planted. The crop flourished and they were saved from starvation. The obscure fact is that none of the other native tribes used this method of planting corn; he had learned in England. So Squanto was kidnapped in our country, taken to England where he learned to speak English and their farming methods, was sent back to Plymouth to enable communication between the natives and Pilgrims, and taught the Pilgrims how to plant corn the way he learned in England.

This sounds like God's perfect plan.



Above, L-R, our speaker John Waldron stands before the flag of the Oklahoma Society with Stuart Denslow and Gov. Patrick Roark. Right, Outgoing Governor Denslow congratulates Governor Roark.



Governor's Message (Continued)

First, why not have your children and grandchildren fill their applications for membership, or give memberships as gifts to your progeny ~ birthday, Christmas or anytime. Second, talk up your membership and inquire of your friends and acquaintances if they might have an eligible ancestor.

2020 will be the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower landing. The National Society and your Oklahoma Society will be hosting 2020 celebrations. A committee chaired by Cherie Lawson is planning now for our celebration. Watch your email for updates on the celebration as they are released. Chairmen are needed for celebrations in Ardmore and/or Lawton. If you are interested, you may contact Cherie at vimayflower@gmail.com.

The email of December 6 also encouraged participation in Oklahoma Society's scholarship program and set out the applicable rules. We have only had a few applicants in the past few years and it would seem that, with as many members as we have, there should be more. Perhaps many may either be unaware that the scholarship exists or have simply forgotten to suggest to descendants that it is available. The deadline to receive scholarship applications is March 1, the very day this newsletter will be mailed. We hope there will be more applicants.

Thank you for the honor of serving you as your Governor. I do not take the responsibility lightly. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or suggestions for making our Society something of which we can all be proud.

Governor Patrick H. Roark

To order your magnetic Oklahoma Mayflower Society name badge, write on a piece of paper how you wish your name to appear on the badge, make your check for **\$13** each payable to **OSMD**, add **\$3** if you wish to have it shipped to you, and mail to **Stuart Denslow, 5721 W. Orlando Cir, Broken Arrow, OK 74011-1137**. Order now and you can pick up your badge at the spring meeting registration table.

Francis Cooke DNA Success

By Mike Terry, OSMD Member

In *The Mayflower Quarterly* magazine, Vol. 82, No. 4, Winter 2016, the report of Surgeon Gen. Naomi E. Mann, MD, (pages 15, 16) shows highlights concerning the GSMD DNA policy. If you haven't read this report yet, I highly recommend it. I am one of the FTDNA administrators listed for the Mayflower Descendants DNA project. I am a recent transfer from the Kansas Mayflower Society to the Oklahoma Society. My proven lines are Francis Cooke and Stephen Hopkins.



Using DNA testing at FTDNA, I was interested in determining what the yDNA signature was for the Francis Cooke line. I had reviewed the Cook/e/ lines at the Cook/e/ DNA project and communicated with the administrator Jim Cooke. There appeared to be two tests in the Cook/e/ DNA project with a claim to descent from the Mayflower Cooke family. The problem was they were in different haplogroups, which meant one of the two lines was incorrect.

Since I am a Terry, I had to find a Cook or Cooke male who I thought was a documented descendant of my Cooke Mayflower passenger and ask them to do a yDNA test to see if they were a match to either of the other Cooke lines. With the help of the Cook/e/ DNA Project Administrator, I was able to contact Barbara Cooke Meredith with a Cooke line in Nova Scotia, Canada, and through the Francis Cooke Society Yahoo group I found Cousin William A. "Bill" Cooke.

It turns out Bill Cooke was an excellent candidate. He had done a test at Ancestry when they still did yDNA-46 testing and he indicated he had a deceased cousin who had actually joined the GSMD on his line. So we did an upgrade on Bill's Ancestry test at FTDNA and found he matched the male cousin and half-brother of Barbara Cooke Meredith as well as another yDNA 25 marker test for a proven Cooke Mayflower descendant.

William A. Cooke has now been approved as a member of the Mayflower Society and I asked him to include his yDNA certificate from FTDNA with his initial application. It turns out he did not need the yDNA certificate; however, his certificate is in fact a genetic birth certificate for direct male descendants of Francis Cooke. So it may help someone else who needs supplemental proofs for their Francis Cooke line. In fact, Barbara Cooke Meredith has an application in process at the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants on her Francis Cooke line which includes the yDNA certificate of Cousin Bill as supplemental proof. We are waiting on their determination.

Surgeon General Mann's report recommends that everyone obtain a DNA test, as its use for genealogical purposes is ever expanding. *(Links to DNA info on next page.)*

Mike Terry

MAYFLOWER LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ dinners at **\$25.00** 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 name tag

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

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Link to Mayflower DNA policy

<https://www.themayflowersociety.org/news-events/item/235-mayflower-dna>

Link to Mayflower DNA Project yDNA results

<https://www.familytreedna.com/public/mayflowersociety?iframe=ycolorized>

Link to Mayflower DNA Project mtDNA results

<https://www.familytreedna.com/public/mayflowersociety/default.aspx?section=mtresults>

Have questions about DNA testing or the Mayflower DNA project?

Contact Mike Terry at mterry3158@sbcglobal.net



In Memoriam



Samuel English Wilson, Jr., Norman, OK 128 ~ GS 20776, Stephen Hopkins ~ Joined 2/12/1955 - Born 21 Jan 1937 to Olivia Harris Wilson Cole and Samuel English Wilson, Sr., died 29 Feb 2016, Tulsa, St. Francis Hosp. He was a graduate of Muskogee Central HS, Muskogee, OK, and the University of Oklahoma.

Mary Elizabeth "Betty" (Neumann) Hitzman, Tulsa, OK 199 ~ GS 22787, William White ~ Joined 7/18/1957 - Formerly from Bartlesville, born 21 Jan 1926, died 18 Feb 2016 at St. John's Hospital. Memorial services were held May 22, 2016 at Tulsa's Saint Simeon's Chapel.

Dr. Felix Ross Kay, Midwest City, OK 589, GS 42963, William Brewster ~ Joined 1/24/1979 ~ Born 16 Feb 1927, near Pensacola, OK; died 8 Apr 2016 after lengthy illness. He attended the University of Virginia and The University of Oklahoma, graduating with a B.S. in bacteriology and immunology, a B.S. in organic and biochemistry and Doctor of Medicine in 1959. He was a founder of Midwest City Regional Hospital.

Alice Lou Campbell, OK 656 ~ GS 52012, John Alden ~ Joined 8/18/1987. Born 6 Nov 1923, Tulsa, died peacefully at her Tulsa home 26 Oct 2016. After working with the American Embassy in Paris, France, post WWII, and traveling the world on a scholastic scholarship, Alice returned to the States and earned her master's degree from the University of Wichita in Speech Pathology and Audiology in 1958.

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.