

# The Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan

## MAYFLOWER NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025

### Governor's Message



Craig Rich, Governor

While it's true that not all genealogists are Mayflower descendants, it's equally true that not all Mayflower descendants are avid genealogists. I sometimes forget that when talking with my fellow Mayflower Society members, and blather on about DNA, sources and databases, research methods, etc.

But today, I do want to share with you some of my favorite things to think about regarding family history which, perhaps, will prompt you to further research your own ancestry.

We rightly focus on the *Mayflower*, but the three other early vessels (*Fortune*, *Anne* and *Little James*) also brought many of our ancestors to the new world. And, out of necessity and convenience if not love, they married and remarried each other just to survive those first years.



*Fortune, Anne and Little James Spring 1623*



Governor Thomas Prentice

Some were the spouses or children of *Mayflower* passengers who came as soon as they could after *Mayflower*, while others were among the "lusty young men" who arrived on the *Fortune* in 1621. For example, my 10<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather, three-time Plymouth Colony Governor Thomas Prentice was one of those "lusty young men" arriving on the *Fortune* in 1621 He later married Patience Brewster, the daughter of my 11<sup>th</sup> great grandfather, Elder William Brewster. Patience came on the *Anne* in 1623. Your genealogy probably is full of similar examples.

My earliest proven Rich ancestor is Richard Rich, a mariner, who first appeared at Cape Cod around 1680 after being at Piscataqua in New Hampshire as early as 1667. Around 1671 he married Sarah, the daughter of N.H. Governor Thomas Roberts. Thus began a long line of Rich men "marrying up"! I am proud to be the 11<sup>th</sup> generation with that surname.

While his origins remain unproven, it's fun to think that, just perhaps, my Richard Rich was an unknown son or grandson of one of the (in)famous British Riches, such as Lord Robert Rich who survived the wreck of the *Sea Venture* in Bermuda in 1609. Yes, that's the same shipwreck that Mayflower passenger Stephen Hopkins survived, and the same shipwreck that inspired Shakespeare to write *The Tempest*.

If so, his (and my) ancestry would go back to Richard Rich, 1st Baron Rich, English lord chancellor under Henry VIII. One can dream, right? The Rich Family Association, which I served as president for 15 years, has undertaken an immense Y-DNA project to solve this mystery and finally put an origin story to my 9<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather.

The moral of this story is to branch out and seek the "other" stories that may just be waiting for you to discover intertwined with your amazing Mayflower line.

I look forward to seeing you in East Lansing at the Spring Luncheon. Our speaker comes to us from the living history/open air museum at Plimoth Patuxet in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Let's have an amazing turnout!



*Living History Museum*

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"After the *Mayflower*, a struggling colony expands."

1621-1623 the *Fortune*, the *Anne* and the *Little James* arrive.

W. Becket Soule  
Alden.org

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"Everything of Man is but a breath."

William Brewster's  
Signature line

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If you prefer a print version of this newsletter, rather than an email version, please notify Lydia Vierson, Membership Secretary at [vierson@gmail.com](mailto:vierson@gmail.com)



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# ***Michigan Society Board of Assistants***

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<b>* NON VOTING MEMBERS</b>	

# Society News

## Juniors

Terri Kleinschmidt, Historian for Juniors



In the Plymouth Colony, our Mayflower Ancestors planted corn as the picture below shows. Have you ever tried growing corn, beans or squash or even tried growing them all together?

The Pilgrims talked a little differently than we do today. They spoke in 17th-century English, not in 21st-century modern English as we do today. Here's an example of what they would say about growing in 1620.

*The seed time "beginneth in the midst of April and continueth till the midst of May."*

### THREE SISTERS COMPANION PLANTING

By the time European settlers arrived in America in the early 1600s, the Iroquois had been growing the "three sisters" for over three centuries. The vegetable trio sustained the Native Americans both physically and spiritually. In legend, the plants were a gift from the gods, always to be grown, eaten and celebrated together. The three sisters provide both sustainable soil fertility as well as a healthy diet from a single planting.

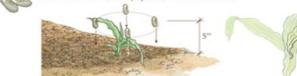
1 In spring, prepare the soil by adding fish scraps or wood ash to increase fertility.



2 Make a mound of soil a foot high and four feet wide. When the danger of frost has passed, sow six kernels of corn an inch deep and about ten inches apart in a circle of about 2 feet in diameter.



3 When the corn is about 5 inches tall, plant four bean seeds, evenly spaced, around each stalk.



4 About a week later, plant six squash seeds, evenly spaced, around the perimeter of the mound.



5 After harvest, make three sisters succotash.



**CORN**  
provides structure for the beans.

**BEANS**  
pull nitrogen from the air and bring it to the soil and vines wind and twist towards the sunlight, they bind the three together and provide further structure.

**SQUASH**  
The large leaves of the sprawling squash provide shade keeping the soil cool, moist and weed free. Some large leaves also shade moist and preventing weeds. The prickly squash leaves also keep away insects, which don't like to step on them.

**TOGETHER**  
The three sisters provide both sustainable soil fertility as well as a healthy diet.

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Now is the time to prepare to give it a try! Follow the chart and see if you can grow corn, beans or squash or even grow them all together.

Have fun!

## Scholarships

Cindy Kaczmarczyk, Scholarship Chair



The Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan offers annual scholarship opportunities to our Junior Members until age 26. To apply, a member must be a graduating high school senior or older, up to but not including age 26, and accepted into a college or vocational program. Junior members have

been sponsored by a General Member relative, while under age 18 and can continue as a Junior up to age 26, when they must apply for General Membership. Both Junior and General members under age 26 are eligible for the Scholarship Program. The awards are: First Place \$3000, Second Place \$2000, Third Place \$1000.

Scholarship awards will apply to post-secondary schools, including university, community college, trade schools and certificate programs. Monies must be used for tuition, books, lab fees, supplies and related program expenses. In addition to college degree programs, applicants may be entering certificate or trade school programs such as EMT/Paramedic, certified nursing assistant, electrician, plumbing, cosmetology, culinary arts, automotive technology, construction trades, and many other areas.

Please see our website [michiganmayflower.org](http://michiganmayflower.org) for detailed instructions on the application process. The deadline for submissions is May 5, 2025, for the following Fall semester. The applicant must be accepted to the school of choice, or on a waitlist as sometimes happens. Funds cannot be used for previous debt or coursework. Funds are typically released in summer directly to the financial aid office of the school.

The application includes a written essay in three parts:

- 1) Who is/are your Mayflower passenger ancestors?
- 2) What were some of your ancestor's known contributions to the early colony, or how do you imagine he/she may have contributed to the success of the colony? (You may focus on just one ancestor)
- 3) Considering the role of religion and the presence of women, how were the Mayflower Pilgrims and Plymouth colony different from earlier colonies such as Jamestown? Do you think the presence of families contributed to or hindered the success of the colony?

Suggestions for researching are to interview a relative who is also a Mayflower descendant; read a Mayflower history such as Nathaniel Philbrick's 'Mayflower...Voyage, Community, War,' 'Mourt's Relation: A Journal of the Pilgrims in Plymouth' by Edward Winslow, or William Bradford's 'Of Plymouth Plantation'; look up passenger profiles and the role of women in Plymouth on [themayflowersociety.org](http://themayflowersociety.org) or [pilgrimhall.org](http://pilgrimhall.org).

Contact the Scholarship Program Chair, Cindy Kaczmarczyk [kaczmac@yahoo.com](mailto:kaczmac@yahoo.com), with any questions regarding the application process or your program's eligibility.

# Welcome to Our Newest Members!



## State Historian

Charlene Wolvin Tavarozzi, State Historian

The Michigan Society's application team has been busy processing new member applications, supplemental applications, and transfers from other state societies.

We have completed fifteen applications this year, seven new member applications and eight supplementals.

We are currently working on nine new applications and seventeen applications have been submitted to the GSMD, but have not yet been approved.

## SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS

Surname	First	Ancestor
Jameson	Ralph	Mullins
Thomas	Cynthia	Alden
Thomas	Cynthia	Mullins, Priscilla
Thomas	Cynthia	Mullins
Speers	Mitchell	Mullins P
Speers	Mitchell	Alden
Cottrell	Irene	Billington, Elinor
Vykydal	Marianne	Mullins

## NEW APPLICATIONS

Surname	First	Ancestor
Karoub	Mary	Cooke
Carnegie	Matthew	Howland
DeChant	Nancy	Alden
Ridl	David	Bradford
LeButt	Christian	Bradford
Soule	Douglas	Soule
McNeil	Steven	Billington



## Looking for ways to volunteer with the General Society? The Easy App Generator is Ready to Sail!

The Easy App Generator is a new tool to help Member Society Historians find prior approved applications that closely match the applicant's line. Then generates an application containing names, dates, places, and citations filled in, but the General Society needs more help. They are looking for volunteer Indexers to help improve the results.

**Are you connected to more than one passenger? Contact Lee Bennett to get started on your Supplemental today: [SMDM-Applications@comcast.net](mailto:SMDM-Applications@comcast.net)**



Are you one of the millions of Mayflower descendants in the world?

**NOTE:** The question of whether Matthew Fuller was the son of Edward Fuller, passenger on the Mayflower in 1620, has been under review.

After considerable review, the previously accepted lineage of Matthew Fuller as a son of Edward Fuller, passenger on the Mayflower in 1620, has been closed. No applications following this lineage will be accepted unless and until evidence to overturn this decision is presented. November 2023. See [The Edward Fuller Family - General Society of Mayflower Descendants](#)

Questions about volunteering with the General Society?

Contact Chris

Schlosser at [GSMDCertify@thmayflowersociety.org](mailto:GSMDCertify@thmayflowersociety.org)

# Spring Luncheon

## East Lansing May 17, 2025



### RSVP!

Complete the reservation form for the annual Spring Luncheon on May 17, 2025

*Pre-register for Parking!*

Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center  
219 S. Harrison Road  
East Lansing, MI 49924  
517-432-4000

Our guest speaker will be .....

Malka Benjamin, Director of Colonial Interpretation & Training at *Plimoth Patuxet* in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Malka will portray Alice (Carpenter) (Southworth) Bradford, second wife of Governor William Bradford. Alice Carpenter and her four sisters were part of the Leiden Separatist community in Holland.



### Relatives Around Me

Thora Goodnight, Treasurer

This May we will repeat the "Relatives Around Me" event that we did at the Fall luncheon since our attendees vary from fall to spring. To participate, you will need an ancestry tree loaded in Family Search. You can start building your tree here: [www.familysearch.com](http://www.familysearch.com).

You will also need to download the Family Tree App on a 'Smart Phone' in order to use it during our meeting. You can find the download from Play Store for Android style phones or from the App Store for iPhone users. The current version has a white background with green and grey squares on a tree. If you don't have a tree on Family Search but do have a tree on another site like Ancestry, create an account on FamilySearch.com, then prepare a GEDCOM file from the tree you have and upload it to FamilySearch. If you need help doing this, you can call me, and I'll try to walk you through doing it.



To use the App:

Android: Tap the three grey bars on the upper left corner then tap 'Relatives Around Me' from the drop down list. Tap 'Scan for Friends' bar at the bottom of the white screen.

Apple iOS: In the bottom-right corner, tap 3 lines. Tap Relatives Around Me. Tap Scan for relatives (Apple iOS devices). Wait as your device connects with other devices. To view your relationship, tap a name.

The app will scan the room for others who have theirs open and will see if your trees have any matching information. Not all trees on FamilySearch have correct data, so you will have to verify the information from home. Once you find a match, do a screenshot of it, it may offer new information for you. Do remember that not all trees have accurate information, as one of my matches came from someone's tree submission with my ancestor mixed up with his cousin by the same name whose fathers were brothers, and the Pilgrim ancestor line was through the cousin's mother. At least I recognized the error and was able to fix the problem on FamilySearch.

I'll have mine open!

# General Society News

## Indexers Still Needed!

CHRIS SCHLOSSER, MEMBER-AT-LARGE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Easy App Generator, the tool to help Member Society Historians find prior applications that closely match the applicant's line and then generates an application with all the generational information (names, dates, places, citations) filled in, was launched at the General Board of Assistants Meeting in Asheville in September 2024. More application information is needed to improve the results!

We need your help in indexing more applications so that Easy App Generator is most useful in finding a close match for prospective members or for those looking for additional supplementals.

As of January 1, 2025, the Indexers have indexed 18,500 applications. But we still have many applications to index so we need a big crew.

### INTERESTING TIDBITS FROM OUR INDEXERS...

As you enter the information from these applications, you may notice how a family migrated from Plymouth to various parts of the country or world, and wonder what may have driven them to move while others stayed in the area for centuries. You may see names that follow a family tradition (how many John Aldens or Thomas Paines can you find in subsequent generations?) or current events (George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, or John Quincy as given names) of a given time. You also may find typos where someone died before their child was born or the birth dates of Line Carrier and Spouse just don't line up.

### WHO CAN BE A MAYFLOWER INDEXER?

Only Mayflower Society members are eligible to participate. To ensure the confidentiality of application data, all indexers are required to sign a Nondisclosure Agreement/Confidentiality form prior to starting the project.

### WHAT DOES A MAYFLOWER INDEXER DO?

Indexers view a previously approved application via the internet on a desktop computer or laptop, using Google Chrome, Apple Safari, Microsoft Edge or Mozilla Firefox. Then, the Indexers enter that data in a form on the indexing platform specifically designed to mirror the GSMD applications for easy data entry.

An internet connection is necessary for any device as the Easy App Generator is a web-based tool. Nothing

will reside on your laptop or desktop. Due to small screen size, indexing on smartphones and tablets is not possible.

Indexers will be assigned applications starting with the most recent applications as these have the most accurate, up-to-date information.

All applications will be indexed by two volunteers with a third "arbiter" making a final determination if there are discrepancies between the two indexers; therefore, Mayflower Indexers can do the best job they can, knowing more eyes will be reviewing.

### WHEN CAN A MAYFLOWER INDEXER INDEX?

Indexers can volunteer in their homes at times convenient to them for as much time as they want. The indexing platform will be open for business and available to Mayflower Indexers 24/7. You can do as little or as much as you have time for. Some indexers may complete one per week while a few are aiming to complete over 100 per month.

### HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS PROJECT?

Once complete, the Mayflower Generations Index will not only fuel the Easy App Generator that will populate new Mayflower Society member or supplemental applications with data that has previously been approved, but will also serve as a central location (called One Source) for our Mayflower data rather than the multiple sources that need to be searched today. It will serve as the foundation for a massive family tree. When fully implemented, Easy App Generator will improve the application process for applicants, Member Society Historians, and Research Center and Verifier teams.

And Mayflower Indexers will have the honor of knowing they have propelled The Mayflower Society to a new level in the digital age—at the same time preserving the lineages of generations of Pilgrim descendants.

### HOW DO I LEARN MORE ABOUT JOINING THE MAYFLOWER INDEXERS?

To volunteer, or to ask questions about volunteering, please contact Ms. Chris Schlosser, Member-at-Large and Technology Committee Chair, at [GSMDCertify@TheMayflowerSociety.org](mailto:GSMDCertify@TheMayflowerSociety.org).

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# General Society News

## 2025 Lecture Series

### 2025 Mayflower Society Virtual Program Schedule

#### APRIL 3RD AT 7PM EST - "THE BIBLE: A GLOBAL HISTORY" - WITH BRUCE GORDON

For Christians, the Bible is a book inspired by God. Its eternal words are transmitted across the world by fallible human hands. Following Jesus's departing instruction to go out into the world, the Bible has been a book in motion from its very beginnings, and every community it has encountered has read, heard, and seen the Bible through its own language and culture.

In "The Bible," Yale Professor Bruce Gordon tells the astounding story of the Bible's journey around the globe and across more than two thousand years, showing how it has shaped and been shaped by changing beliefs and believers' radically different needs.

Breathtakingly global in scope, The Bible tells the story of this sacred book through the stories of its many and diverse human encounters, revealing not a static text but a living, dynamic cultural force.

Zoom webinar information:

- [Webinar Link](#)

### View On Demand Webinars

## 2025 Mayflower Society Virtual Programs

Click on the links below to rewatch these Virtual Lectures and remember to copy the passcode.

["A Grave Mistake? The English Origins of Old Comer Thomas Clarke"](#)

Presented by: Bill Cole

Passcode: Ou@qgrka

["Plantation Goods: A Material of American Slavery"](#)  
Presenter: Seth Rockman

Unavailable for rewatch per request of the presenter

["Plunder? How Museums Got Their Treasures"](#)

Presenter: Justin Jacobs

Passcode: nnA@f=?6

["The Mayflower in Britain"](#)

Presenter: Graham Taylor

No passcode needed

For more information on Video Lecture Series visit: [Lecture Series - General Society of Mayflower Descendants](#)

To learn more visit: [Organization of the General Society - General Society of Mayflower Descendants](#)

## Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan

Send address changes to:

**Lydia Vierson**, Membership Secretary  
800 Soren Court SE  
Lowell, MI 49331-8502

Interested in joining?

Contact **Lee Bennett** at:  
[smdm-applications@comcast.net](mailto:smdm-applications@comcast.net)

**We're on the Web at**  
[www.michiganmayflower.org](http://www.michiganmayflower.org)

Society of  
Mayflower  
Descendants  
in Michigan

- ◆ Michigan Society's website: [www.michiganmayflower.org](http://www.michiganmayflower.org)
- ◆ Michigan Society's **Private Facebook Page**: [Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan Members Group | Facebook](#)
- ◆ Michigan Society's **Public Facebook Page**: [Descendants of the Mayflower in Michigan | Facebook](#)

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## Key Dates for 2025

4-7 Sept 2025	GBOA Meeting San Antonio, TX
8 Nov 2025	Compact Day Luncheon Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth 11:30 am Punch Meeting at Noon
16 May 2026	Board Meeting Kellogg Center, East Lansing 9:00 am
16 May 2026	Spring Luncheon Kellogg Center, East Lansing 11:30 am Punch Meeting at Noon

AFTER 10 DAYS RETURN TO:  
Mayflower Descendants in Michigan  
Lydia Vierson, Membership Secretary  
800 Soren Court SE  
Lowell, MI 49331-8502  
FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

