

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan

MAYFLOWER NEWSLETTER

Fall 2025

"So they left that goodly and pleasant city which had been their resting place near twelve years; but they knew they were pilgrims..."

We wished the 'churches of God' to 'revert to their ancient purity and recover their primitive order, liberty and beauty.' We wanted 'freedom of religion for all men.'

"And that it cost them something this ensuing history will declare..."

William Bradford
"Of their Departure from Leyden...", in Of Plimouth Plantation, 1620 ~ 1647

REMINDER:

If you prefer a print version of this newsletter, please notify Lydia Vierson, Membership Chair at vierson@gmail.com



Governor's Message

Craig Rich, Governor

After one of the hottest and driest Michigan summers in memory, the cool breezes of Autumn will be very welcome this year! And as autumn settles over Michigan – painting our fields and forests in vibrant hues of crimson, gold, and amber – it's hard not to feel a special connection to the past. For descendants of the Pilgrims who arrived on these shores in 1620, this cool, crisp season evokes the spirit of gratitude, perseverance, and wonder that defined their first years in this, the New World.



Michigan in Fall

Just as they came to marvel at the bounty and beauty of an unfamiliar land, so too can we pause and appreciate the harvest season here in Michigan – where the air is brisk, the trees are heavy with fruit, and the landscape seems to echo with the timeless rhythm of tradition and renewal. Even a trip to a cemetery to honor those who came before us is made more beautiful by the vibrant hues of autumn.



Plymouth Plantation in Fall

One very special event on your autumn calendar should be our annual Compact Day Luncheon in Frankenmuth, Michigan on 8 November 2025. Our very special guest that day is the Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Lisa Pennington. Her comments are titled, "Lighting the Candle: Why We Must Tell the Mayflower Story."

Lisa will also be installing our new 2025-2028 board of assistants after the election.

Can you help? If you have ever been curious about becoming more involved in your society, there is an opportunity to step up. Your Society needs someone new to run the sales table at our biannual meetings. This involves storing and transporting the items to the venue, staffing the table, maintaining inventory, and working closely with the treasurer. If interested, you would have an opportunity to work alongside the current team this November to "learn the ropes."

For further information, please contact craig@craigrich.net.

Thank you!



Manning the Sales Table

Michigan Society Board of Assistants

GOVERNOR	Craig Rich [REDACTED]
DEPUTY GOVERNOR	Heather McKane Bolthouse [REDACTED]
ELDER	David William VanHoof [REDACTED]
TREASURER	Thora Goodnight [REDACTED]
RECORDING SECRETARY	Elizabeth Mancour Williams [REDACTED]
HISTORIAN	Charlene Wolvin Tavarozzi [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
HISTORIAN FOR JUNIORS	Terri Kleinschmidt [REDACTED]
ASSISTANT: NEWSLETTER SECRETARY	Karen Braddy Lambert [REDACTED]
ASSISTANT: MEMBERSHIP	Lydia Vierson [REDACTED]
ASSISTANT: PUBLIC RELATIONS	Karen Braddy Lambert [REDACTED]
ASSISTANT: CORRESPONDING	Tammy Carr Cruickshank [REDACTED]
*FLAG CAPTAIN	Mark S. Chamberlain [REDACTED]
*COUNSELLOR	Mary Ellen Crusoe Byrne, Esq. [REDACTED]
*EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS	Past Governors: John Allen Crusoe, Terry McKane, Mary Ellen Crusoe Byrne, June Gorman, Grace Bliss Smith
*INVESTMENT COMMITTEE	Heather McKane Bolthouse, Chair: Thora Goodnight, Mary Ellen Byrne, Craig Rich
*SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR	Cindy Kaczmarczyk [REDACTED]
*ASSISTANTS TO BOARD MEMBERS	Deputy Historians: Lee Bennett, Dr. Jo Smith, Aaron Card, Barbara Hofmann Treasurer: Belinda Lyons Sales Table: Marcia K. Cole, Linda Fisher, Johanna Balzer Directory: Lydia Vierson Webmaster/Facebook: Lee Bennett
*NON VOTING MEMBERS	

Society News

Juniors

Terri Kleinschmidt, Historian for Juniors



As November rolls around, we, as Mayflower descendants, can't help but reflect on that historic first Thanksgiving in Plymouth. Nowadays, our Thanksgiving feast typically features roasted turkey, dressing, and gravy, along with sides like mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, and of course, pumpkin pie. Do you ever wonder if the meal we enjoy today resembles what the Pilgrims had back then?

So, here is the challenge, Juniors!

Which of the following items would NOT have appeared on the table of our Pilgrim ancestors?

1. Turkey
2. Pumpkins
3. Venison
4. Mashed potatoes
5. Oysters
6. Pie
7. Clams
8. Squash
9. Lobster
10. Ham
11. Dinner Rolls
12. Corn
13. Beans
14. Mussels

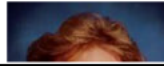


Come to the Junior table at our November meeting in Frankenmuth and find the answer!



Or email me at terrikleinschmidt@comcast.net with your answers.

In Remembrance



Betty Latimer, age 101, of Royal Oak, Michigan, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 26, 2025. She was born on May 17, 1924 to parents J.D. and Ethel Wilson, she was the oldest of 7 children. She graduated from Clio High School where her teachers helped her develop her interest and ability in shorthand and typing. After graduation she became secretary to the Plant Engineer of Fisher Body Tank Plant. She was a member of Royal Oak First United Methodist Church as well as the Mayflower Society and the Ezra Parker Chapter of the National Society of the American Revolution. In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to GiGi's Playhouse Detroit at 19799 W. 12 Mile Rd, Southfield, MI 48076.



Barbara Marie Walker Anderson, age 96, of Battle Creek left for her final journey on July 4, 2025. Barbara was a force of nature and a world traveler who visited many countries around the globe. Barbara worked as a surgical scrub nurse for many years at Community Hospital. She taught part time in the nursing program for eight years at KCC. Barbara was co owner of Mid Michigan Surgical Supply and Mid Michigan Fashions. Memorial donations can be made to Eaton County Palliative Care, 2615 S. Cochran, Charlotte Michigan 48813.



Gary Scott Stuber, age 69, of Fenton, formerly of Flushing, Michigan, passed away on July 9, 2024. Gary had a Mechanical Engineering degree from Michigan Technological University, and an MBA from Lawrence Technological University. Gary loved going to car shows with his dad and friends and spending time with his family. One of his biggest projects was restoring a Triumph TR-3 with his dad and friend, Bryan. He worked as a mechanical engineer at Chrysler and the Department of Defense before retiring in early 2018. Memorial contributions may be made to Adopt-A-Pet Fenton or Flushing Presbyterian Church.

Shirley Jean Peterson, age 95, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully at Orchard Manor in Farmington Hills on August 22, 2025. Shirley worked at Woolworth's Five & Dime, as a telephone operator, and finally as a teller at Manufacturer's Comerica Bank, retiring after 22 years. A talented seamstress, she clothed dolls for children's charities at Christmas for many years. Shirley was the family historian and genealogist. She was a lifetime member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and Michigan's chapter (SMDM), a descendant of John Howland.



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 44 applications this year, 28 new member applications and 16 supplementals.

We are currently working on 13 new applications and 7 applications have been submitted to the GSMD, but have not yet been approved.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS

Surname	First	Ancestor
Hofmeister	Margie	Fuller
Kasch	Marsha	Tilley, E
Leonard	Carolyn	Allerton
Lindquist	Kirk	Warren
Prevette	Robert	Soule
Robb	Diane	Allerton
Sears	Mary	Priest
Vykydal	Marianne	Browne

NEW APPLICATIONS

Surname	First	Ancestor
Baker	Brittany	Soule
Brege	Molly	Cooke
Buckler	Meghan	Cooke
Chandler	Jenny	Alden
Davidson	Diane	Brewster
DeChant	Ann	Alden
Detwiler	Lynn	Fuller S
Fitzgerald	Carol	Brewster
Frisbie	Derek	Bradford
Gammon	James Hu	Howland
Good	Levi	Brewster
Landers	Karen	Bradford
Landers	Megan	Bradford
Martin	Marlene	Rogers
Mitchell	Robert	Fuller
Peters	Nancy Jo	Mullins
Ruby	Drew	Soule
Soules	Sean	Soule
Stefano	Amy	Brewster
VanHoof	Steven	Warren
Youker	Adam	Cooke

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



Questions about volunteering with the General Society?

Contact Chris

Schlosser at GSMDCertify@themayflowersociety.org

Fall Compact Day Luncheon

Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth - November 8, 2025



RSVP!

Room Block hold through October 25!
Bavarian Inn Frankenmuth



Our guest speaker will be ... Lisa Pennington!

Lisa Pennington is the Mayflower Society's Governor General for 2023-2026. She previously served as Counsellor General and Member-at-Large on GSMD's Executive Committee. She joined the Mayflower Society in 2000 and has held officer positions in both the Texas and Massachusetts member societies over the years.

Lisa earned her B.A. and J.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. She practiced business litigation for thirty-four years and was elected Managing Partner of her firm's Houston office for eighteen years until she retired in 2018. She and her husband, David Furlow, have three children and five grandchildren and enjoy travel and speaking and writing on historical topics.

Congratulations to Our Scholarship Winners!



Scholarships

Cindy Kaczmarczyk, Scholarship Chair

This year, the SMDM received scholarship applications from several accomplished college students. They wrote compelling essays about their Mayflower ancestors and the roles that women and children played in the success of Plymouth Colony, and outlined their own aspirations as they carry on the legacy of their forebears. I am pleased to present our three 2025 scholarship winners:



Ani Avedian, a descendant of George Soule - 1st place \$3,000 scholarship

This fall, I will continue my undergraduate studies at Merrimack College while gaining clinical experience and working toward certifications in Basic Life Support and Emergency Medical Training. I am also involved in campus organizations and volunteer work that support both my academic growth and my commitment to service. I am truly grateful for the Society's support, which brings me one step closer to achieving my goals while honoring the legacy of those who came before me."



Connor Curtis, a descendant of William Bradford - 2nd place \$2,000 scholarship

This year, I plan to continue my academic success at Michigan State University while also working as a University Learning Assistant and participating in the Michigan State University crew club. In the future, I hope to obtain a data science position where I will help collect, analyze, and interpret large amounts of data for either businesses, or other areas relating closer to natural sciences. Overall, I'm very excited to continue this chapter of my life as the new school year begins."



Anna Richards, an Allerton family descendant - 3rd place \$1,000 scholarship

After I graduate from the University of Michigan this December, I plan to pursue a career in corporate communications, public relations, or advertising. This fall I will be working as a Communications Assistant at the Logistics, Transportation, and Parking Office at the University of Michigan, where I am excited to further develop my skills in content creation"

Last Call for 2022-2025 Directories

Attention Members! Copies of the current edition of the directory are still available. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact Lydia Vierson vierson@gmail.com to confirm your address. Cost is for postage only - payable via check or PayPal. Copies will also be available for pick up at the Compact Day Luncheon in November.

Society News

General Board of Assessors Meeting in San Antonio! September 4-7, 2025



What an amazing opportunity to listen to the leaders of our Society discuss the mission and vision of our organization. Governor Craig Rich, Treasurer Thora Goodnight, State Historian Char Tavarozzi, Membership Chair Lydia Vierson and Deputy Historian Aaron Card represented Michigan at this years conference.

Photo credit goes to Doug Blake the Editor in Chief of the Mayflower Quarterly Magazine

General Society News

2026 is America's 250th Anniversary!

Celebrate in Style...

Patriotism The Mayflower Society Shop

Celebrate America's 250th anniversary with these various products inspired by *Liberty's Pulpit*, a painting by American artist Jean Leon Gerome Ferris (1863-1930), which depicts a Patriot standing on Plymouth Rock.

Look stylish while honoring the incredible legacy of our Pilgrim ancestors and their descendants who fought for independence in 1775.



Super soft and lightweight tri-blend shirt (50/25/25 polyester/cotton/rayon material), with rib-knit crewneck collar and short set-in sleeves. Unisex. Available in either blue or red.

For more information on logoed apparel and to purchase other gift items, visit:
[Pilgrims to Patriots T-Shirt - 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

We're on the Web at
www.michiganmayflower.org

Society of
Mayflower
Descendants
in Michigan

- ♦ Michigan Society's website: 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](#)

Key Dates for 2026

8 Nov 2025	Compact Day Luncheon Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth 11:30 am Punch Meeting at Noon
2026	Kellogg Center, East Lansing 9:00 am
16 May 2026	Spring Luncheon Kellogg Center, East Lansing 11:30 am Punch Meeting at Noon
Sept 3-6 2026	GBOA Meeting San Antonio, TX

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

