

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan

MAYFLOWER NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025

The Mayflower passengers expressed their hopes, fears, and determination through various quotes reflecting their experiences during their journey and settlement in the New World.

"They must become a body politic, using amongst yourselves civil government."

"It is not with us as with other men, whom small things can discourage, or small discontentment cause to wish themselves home again."

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

By all accounts, the Michigan Society's 2025 Compact Day Luncheon was a huge success. More than 170 of us gathered, as is our custom, in Frankenmuth, Michigan on November 8 for our biannual coming-together.

The day began with the flurry of set-up and preparation and culminated with the installation of the new Board of Governors for the period 2025-2028. For the most part, your leadership team remains the same. The changes include Membership Assistant Lydia Vierson who also is now serving as Deputy Governor, Aaron Card joins the board as Public Relations Assistant, and Shelly Arnold will be our new Corresponding Secretary. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the officers list in this newsletter.

Our keynote speaker for the day was Governor General Lisa Pennington who commented that the Michigan Society's meeting was the largest she had attended in her two years in office! The Governor General's positive and cheerful message focused on why we must continue to tell the Pilgrim story. If you haven't checked out the Governor General's YouTube video series, please do! They're great to watch with kids and grandkids.



Governor General Lisa Pennington

I hope you will plan to join your fellow Michigan Mayflower descendants on May 16, 2026, at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing for our Spring Luncheon. Details and the registration form will be included in the Spring 2026 newsletter.



Passengers to Patriots

2026 is a special year in America. As a nation we will celebrate our 250th anniversary (our semi-quincentennial). As someone who already knows their ancestry going back 400 years or more, you also may discover that your Mayflower roots grew some Revolutionary branches (on one side or the other!). The Society's "Patriots to Passengers" project is a great resource for those members seeking SAR or DAR membership as well. The ever-growing list is a great starting point for you to explore your family's Patriot roots. And, if you have friends in the SAR or DAR, please share this info with them so they may find a connection to our Society as well.

Here's the link: themayflowersociety.org/genealogy/patriots-to-passengers

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Governor for these next three years. It is an honor.

Craig Rich
Governor

Questions about volunteering with the General Society? Contact Chris Schlosser at GSMDCertify@themayflowersociety.org

Michigan Society Board of Assistants

GOVERNOR	Craig Rich [REDACTED]
DEPUTY GOVERNOR	Lydia Vierson [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	Aaron Card [REDACTED]
ASSISTANT: CORRESPONDING	Shelly Ranee Arnold [REDACTED]
*FLAG CAPTAIN	Mark S. Chamberlain [REDACTED]
*COUNSELLOR	Mary Ellen Crusoe Byrne, Esq. [REDACTED]
*EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS	Past Governors: John Allen Crusoe, Mary Ellen Crusoe Byrne, June Gorman
*INVESTMENT COMMITTEE	Committee: 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: Johanna Balzer Directory: Lydia Vierson
*NON VOTING MEMBERS	

Society News



Treasurer

Thora Goodnight, Treasurer

Our raffle in November supporting the Mayflower Meetinghouse Project was so fun that we have decided to host another one during the Spring meeting in May.

Help us

For more information on the slate trays contact Thora at: thoragoodnight@hotmail.com.



In Remembrance



Terry John McKane, 84, of Midland passed away peacefully on September 22, 2025. Terry dedicated his life to serving others - his friends in the Boy Scouts of America, Explorers' Troop #194; his country during the height of the Cold War as a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Army 4th Armored Division; his city as mayor and councilman of Lansing for more than two decades; his community as a dedicated American history and Gov't teacher and devout church leader; and his family as a beloved and adored husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, son-in-law, brother-in-law and father-in-law.

Forever the family genealogist, Terry inquisitively traced his family's lineage to kings, queens, farmers, peasants, and Mayflower passengers. He served as Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan and Deputy Governor of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.



H. Richard "Dick" Allen, age 85, of St. Clair, passed away May 7, 2023. He was born December 17, 1937 in Evansville, Indiana and married Elizabeth "Betty" Jarrell on August 15, 1959 in Paris, Illinois. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Education from Eastern Illinois University and earned his Master Degree in Education from Eastern Michigan University. He taught at St. Clair Junior High School from 1960 to 1994, teaching primarily geography, history and English.

Spending time with his family meant everything to him. He loved to read and enjoyed playing bridge, attending the Indianapolis 500, gardening and hiking. He also enjoyed traveling with Betty, they traveled to Europe in 1974 and upon retirement took many trips and Caribbean cruises, highlighted by the transit of the Panama Canal in 2004 and a trip to Alaska. He was a member of First United Methodist Church, St. Clair, Evergreen #9 Free and Accepted Masons, Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan through John Howland and First Families of Ohio.

Spending time with his family meant everything to him. He loved to read and enjoyed playing bridge, attending the Indianapolis 500, gardening and hiking. He also enjoyed traveling with Betty, they traveled to Europe in 1974 and upon retirement took many trips and Caribbean cruises, highlighted by the transit of the Panama Canal in 2004 and a trip to Alaska. He was a member of First United Methodist Church, St. Clair, Evergreen #9 Free and Accepted Masons, Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan through John Howland and First Families of Ohio.



Michael Scribner Harlan passed away on September 23, 2025, at the age of 63. He was born in Detroit, Michigan, on April 22, 1962. Beloved brother of Lisa Harlan, Michael also leaves behind many loving family members and friends. He was a proud 1980 graduate of Cousino High School and he played on the varsity tennis team. He went on to pursue higher education at Oakland University.

In later years, Michael developed a passion for gardening, his green thumb was truly one of a kind. He also enjoyed horse racing and cheering on all Detroit sports teams. Michael took great pride in being a descendant of the Mayflower. He was a life member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan from age 7 and served the board as Treasurer.

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 61 applications this year, 44 new member applications and 17 supplementals.

We are currently working on 9 new applications and 9 applications have been submitted to the GSMD, but have not yet been approved. The following are approvals since our last publication.



NEW APPLICATIONS

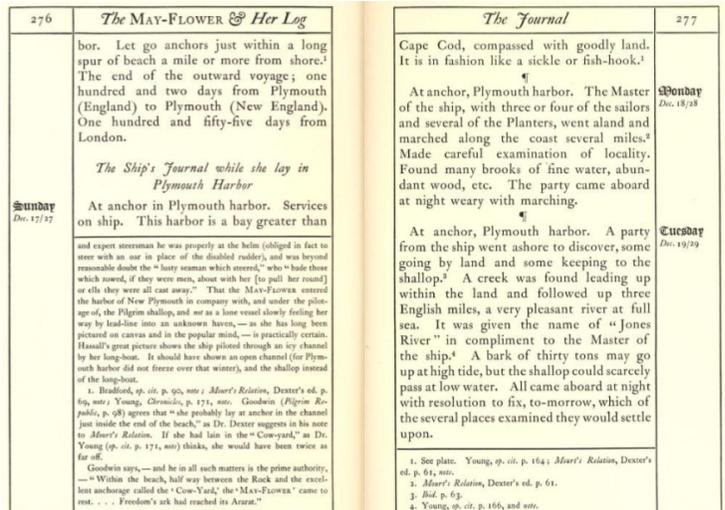
Surname	First	Ancestor
Bell	Katherine	Soule
Birnie	Ronald	Bradford
Buckler	Victoria	Cooke
Collet	Susanna	Jackson
Diliani	Martha	Allerton
Floyd	John	Hopkins
Goff	Ryan	Alden
Hitts	Susan	Chilton, M
Hobert	Debra	Howland
Howery	Kristopher	Fuller. S
Jastifier	Ethan	Fuller
Kulba	Marjorie	Howland
Kunde	Barbara	Howland
McColley	Keegan	Alden
McColley	Olivia	Alden
Roberts	Whitney	Jackson



"On December 18, 1620, with the English ship Mayflower anchored in Plymouth Harbor, Massachusetts, a small party of sailors from the vessel go ashore, as its passengers prepare to begin their new settlement, Plymouth Colony."

SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS

Surname	First	Ancestor
Youker	Adam	Hopkins



Fall Compact Day Luncheon

November 8, 2025

We had a fabulous Compact Day! Governor General Lisa Pennington delivered a fantastic talk about Why We Must Tell the Pilgrim Story, she also swore in our new board. Governor Craig Rich shared the story of our gavel which has a chip of Plymouth Rock in it! Ani Avedian, our scholarship winner shared her winning essay.



The Warren Family won the ancestor count.



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.

Please see our website michiganmayflower.org for detailed instructions on the application process. The deadline for submissions is May 1, 2026 for the following Fall semester. Contact the Scholarship Program Chair, Cindy Kaczmarczyk kaczmac@yahoo.com, with any questions regarding the application process or your program's eligibility.

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 Spring Luncheon in May.

The Mayflower in Bills & Notes, Coins, Stamps & Seals, Medals & Pins, Cup Plates



Charles Markey is the husband of member Mary Sue Markey and is a coin enthusiast who also researches Mayflower collectibles. In his research he has found numerous articles regarding artifacts giving public recognition to the landing of the Pilgrims in 1620 by the United States government, various US States, the General Society of Mayflower Descendents, foreign governments as well as public and private societies. These artifacts include circulating and commemorative coins, medals, stamps & seals, statues, commemorative glass plates, and celebration pins. Many have been researched by others who have documented and illustrated them for interested parties and history buffs.

Mr. Markey has attempted to organize these finds and present primary and secondary research for these items that give additional details and reference to their study. His complete work is large, so we are giving reference to his work and examples of the types of materials found in it. For more information, email: cmarkey1cwm@gmail.com.

Bills & Notes

Example that used Henry Sargent's painting of the Landing of the Pilgrims' for the reverse of bills and notes of US States and US Federal Government.



Coins

2020 Mayflower 400th Anniversary Coins/Medals



1920 Pilgrim's Tercentenary Half-Dollar



1776-2026 Compact Quarter



Stamps & Seals

In 1920 the US Postal Service issued three stamps:



Also depicted are the 1952 The General Society seal, the 1970 six-cent stamp. In 1971 the second General Society non-postage stamp, and in 2020 the US forever stamp.

Medals & Pins



Cups Plates, Coles Hill History Statue

In 1982 the GSMD announced the sale of three Mayflower Society Seal cup plates commissioned by the Pairpoint Glass Company of Sagamore, MA. Cup plates were used between 1832 and 1860 to drink hot tea without using teacups with handles. Cyrus Dallin statue of the Wampanoag Sachem Massasoit.



General Society News

America's 250th Anniversary 2026



As more and more information becomes available online, descendants are reaching out to connect their Revolutionary War Patriot with a *Mayflower* passenger. Many Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution (DAR and SAR) are asking if they also have an ancestral tie to a *Mayflower* passenger and are interested in learning how they may become a member of The Mayflower Society.

The **Patriots to Passenger Project** is a growing published list of Revolutionary War Patriots who descend from *Mayflower* passengers. The intent is to build a bridge between lineage societies. Many Mayflower Society members are also members of other lineage societies.

The **Patriots to Passenger Project** is a way to help others discover their link to a *Mayflower* passenger and benefits existing members with possible discovery of additional Mayflower lines of descent they can then submit as supplemental applications.

The project is a work-in-progress. If you have ideas, thoughts, or suggestions, please contact Muriel Cushing: 1620flash@gmail.com. Access the [Patriots to Passenger PDF Data Sheet](#) can be found on the website.

Don't forget to get your
Mayflower Compact
Quarter in 2026!



The Mayflower Compact Quarter, part of the 2026 Semiquincentennial Circulating Coin series, features two Pilgrims embracing as they behold the New World. The obverse design represents the Mayflower Compact, signed November 21, 1620, which established the colony as a mutual enterprise. The reverse design showcases the Mayflower, with full sails over rough seas, heading west. The inscriptions include "E PLURIBUS UNUM," "1776 ~ 2026," and "IN GOD WE TRUST." This quarter is a significant piece of American history, symbolizing the unity and cooperation among the Pilgrims and the establishment of the first American colony.

Our Mission

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants is committed to research on the lineal descent of the Mayflower Pilgrims and education about the Pilgrims who traveled aboard the *Mayflower* in 1620. The Society provides education and understanding of why the Mayflower Pilgrims were important, how they shaped western civilization, and what their 1620 voyage means today and its impact on the world.

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](#)

MAYFLOWER NEWSLETTER Winter 2025

Page 8

Key Dates for 2026

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
11-16, Sep 2026	GBOA Meeting Plymouth, MA
8 Nov 2026	Compact Day Luncheon Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth 11:30 am Punch Meeting at Noon

Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan
Lydia Vierson, Membership Secretary
800 Soren Court SE
Lowell, MI 49331-8502

