

## The Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan

### INSIDE

#### Quote:

“The moment we give up on the difficult work of living with our neighbors, we risk losing everything”

#### Reminder:

For a print version of this newsletter contact Lydia Vierson, Membership Chair, vierson@gmail.com



## Governor's Message

Craig Rich, Governor

As we gather this spring, surrounded by blossoms and lengthening daylight, it seems fitting to reflect on that first springtime in Plymouth 405 years ago.

In March 1621, the surviving passengers of the Mayflower emerged from the shadow of their first winter in New England. It was a season of almost unimaginable hardship. Of the 102 passengers who had sailed from England, about half had died by spring. Illness, malnutrition, exposure, and the strain of uncertainty had swept through the little settlement. At times, only a handful were well enough to tend the sick or bury the dead.

And yet, when spring came, it brought not only thawed soil, but something less visible – resolve.

Imagine the mixed emotions. The sight of green leaves and grass must have stirred hope. But that hope stood alongside grief, as wives mourned their husbands. Husbands mourned wives. And parents buried children.

The colony they had envisioned had been baptized in suffering. Those who remained must have wrestled with their doubts. Would the sacrifices already made be enough?

The Pilgrims learned to plant corn with fish as fertilizer, to recognize native crops, and to adapt to a land very different from the one they had left behind. That first spring was not a season of celebration. It was a season of perseverance. Faith was not an abstract for the Pilgrims, it was the daily act of planting seed in soil that had so recently received their dead.

In the autumn of 1621, there would be a harvest – albeit a modest but sufficient one – and a gathering of gratitude. We often remember that feast, but it was the Spring of 1621 that made the Thanksgiving of Autumn possible. Spring was the turning point, when despair did not have the final word. (Continued on page 6)

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# Michigan Society Board of Assistants

<b>Governor</b>	<b>Craig Rich</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Deputy Governor</b>	<b>Lydia Vierson</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Elder</b>	<b>David William Van Hoof</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Thora Goodnight</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Elizabeth Mancour Williams</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Charlene Wolvin Tavarozzi</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Historian for Juniors</b>	<b>Terri Kleinschmidt</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Assistant: Newsletter Secretary</b>	<b>Karen Braddy Lambert</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Assistant: Membership</b>	<b>Lydia Vierson</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Assistant: Public Relations</b>	<b>Aaron Card</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Assistant: Corresponding</b>	<b>Shelly R. Low Arnold</b> [REDACTED]
<b>*Flag Captain</b>	<b>Mark S. Chamberlain</b> [REDACTED]
<b>*Counsellor</b>	<b>Mary Ellen Crusoe Byrne, Esq.</b> [REDACTED]

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## **\*Ex-Officio Board Members**

## **\*Investment Committee**

## **\*Scholarship Chair**

## **\*Assistants to Board Members**

## **\* non-voting members**

**Past Governors:** John Allen Crusoe, Mary Ellen Crusoe Byrne, June Gorman

**Committee:** Thora Goodnight, Mary Ellen Byrne, Craig Rich

## **Cindy Kaczmarczyk**

269-953-0150 kaczmack@yahoo.com

**Deputy Historians:** Lee Bennett, Dr. Jo Smith, Aaron Card, Barbara Hofmann

**Treasurer:** Belinda Lyons

**Sales Table:** Johanna Balzer

**Directory:** Lydia Vierson

**Webmaster/Facebook:** Lee Bennett

## Society News



## State Historian

Charlene Wolvin Tavarozzi, Historian



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

We completed 10 applications this year, 7 new member applications and 3 supplementals.

We are currently working on 14 new applications, and 7 applications have been submitted to the GSMD, but have not yet been approved. The following are approvals since our last publication.

## New Applications

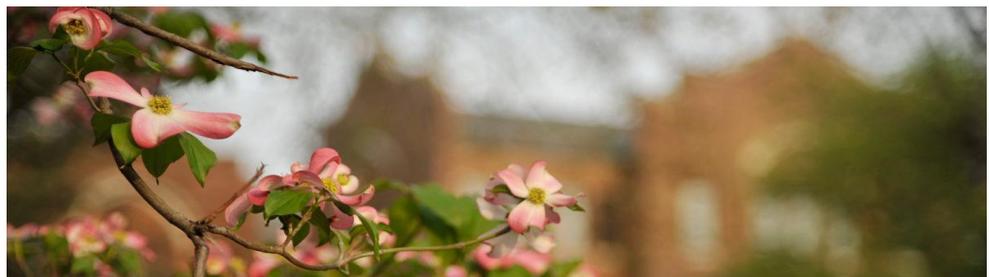
Surname	First	Ancestor
Borchgrevink	Barbara	Alden
Sayles	Grace	Doty
Sayles	Mark	Doty
Glanz	Hannah	Brewster
Gould	LeaAnn	Hopkins
Harbke	Lynn	Soule
Thacher	Alexander	Brewster

*"Interested in seeing if you have Mayflower Ancestors? Contact Lee Bennett to submit an application for a friend or a supplemental for yourself!"*

[smdm-applications@comcast.net](mailto:smdm-applications@comcast.net)

## Supplemental Applications

Surname	First	Ancestor
Buckler	Meghan	Cooke, J
Buckler	Meghan	Warren
Janosi	Julia	Mullins, P



### Juniors

Terri Kleinschmidt, Historian for Juniors



Among the 102 passengers aboard the Mayflower that arrived in the New World were approximately 30 children—nearly 30% of the passengers were under the age of 18!

That first winter of 1620–1621 brought “the Great Sickness” to the Colony and 50% of the passengers died. The children, as a group, fared best with only five children dying (servant John Hooke, Ellen, Jasper and Mary More, and the Tinker family’s infant son).

However, a new problem emerged. Thirty percent of the Colony’s children were either orphaned or abandoned in the New World. The caring of these orphans is one of the great untold stories of life in the first year of the Colony. It has been suggested that the health of these children ultimately increased the chances of survival of the entire struggling colony and helped to ensure their future. It also made for a Colony whose future leaders had been there since the establishment, including its governance, values and ethics.

**The following nine orphaned or abandoned children were taken in by Pilgrim families during a time when food and resources were scarce:**

- **Mary Chilton:** became part of the widowed Myles Standish household
- **John Crackstone:** became part of the Allerton family
- **Samuel Fuller:** having lost both his parents, was taken in by his Uncle Samuel Fuller
- **Richard More:** became part of the Brewster household
- **Priscilla Mullins:** no record
- **Joseph Rogers:** was taken in by widower William Bradford
- **Henry Samson:** likely was in the Brewster household
- **Elizabeth Tilley:** no record
- **Humility Cooper:** likely into the Brewster household with her cousin Henry Samson until she was sent back to England

### Spring Luncheon Auction

Step into history this spring and take home a remarkable piece of Mayflower heritage! At our upcoming Spring Luncheon, members will have the rare opportunity to bid on beautifully crafted serving trays made from tiles that once protected the rooftop of the iconic Mayflower Meetinghouse.

#### A Piece of History in Your Home

These hand-made trays feature unique, historic tiles reclaimed from the Meetinghouse roof. The 1897 structure stands on the very site where the Pilgrims first gathered more than four centuries ago, making each tray a tangible link to our shared past.



(Decanter set not included)

#### How These Trays Returned to Michigan

Originally offered as gifts for a \$500 donation, the trays quickly sold out in July. During the fall GBOA in San Antonio, we connected with those overseeing the project and secured an additional 10 trays in recognition of the Michigan Society’s \$5,000 contribution to the Meeting House Restoration Project.

#### Your Chance to Own One

These limited-edition trays will be offered exclusively to our members through auctions held at our luncheons. Once they’re gone, they’re gone, making each one a meaningful keepsake and a proud reminder of our Society’s commitment to preserving Mayflower history.



(Decanter set not included)

### 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.

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

[www.themayflowersociety.org](http://www.themayflowersociety.org) or [www.pilgrimhall.org](http://www.pilgrimhall.org).

### Spring Luncheon

Thora Goodnight, Treasurer



Our Spring Luncheon is right around the corner! Meet us in Lansing on Saturday May 16, 2026 at 11:30 am. The board meeting will take place at 9am that morning.

We're excited for our guest speaker who is Charlie Markey and he will deliver a presentation on *The Mayflower in Bills, Coins, Stamps, Medals, Statues, Plates & Pins*.

Charlie collecting began at an early age as he saved coins that were in current circulation but minted before 1950. He continued collecting pre-1964 coins including silver, nickels and wheat pennies. In 2010, his role at the Arnold Center expanded to include the management and oversight of an Auction House which handled estate items and coins. He became a competitive bidder and his collecting of US coins began in earnest. He would bid and buy online from other auction sites and ultimately became a customer of the US Mint. This allowed Charlie to add current proof and uncirculated sets as well as 2021 Morgan and Peace issues to his collection.



### RSVP!

Complete the reservation form by  
May 1, 2026.

*Pre-register for Parking!*

Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center  
219 S. Harrison Road  
East Lansing, MI 49924

*We'll use "Relatives Around Me"  
again!*

Please see our Scholarship website [www.michiganmayflower.org](http://www.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](mailto:kaczmac@yahoo.com), with any questions regarding the application process or your program's eligibility.

### In Memory

David Van Hoof, Elder



Our deepest sympathies go out to two families.

**Wanda Jean Struck** of Davison, Michigan who was born October 10, 1931

and passed at the age of 92 on September 9, 2025.

**Suzanne Armstrong Beutler** was born October 23, 1930, and passed on Monday, January 26, 2026. Sue earned a master's degree at the University of Michigan and became a teacher in the Ann Arbor Public Schools. Several times she was named an "outstanding teacher" by the school trustees. While continuing to teach, she earned a Ph.D. in 1974 in educational psychology, again at the University of Michigan. This led her to do classroom research, which resulted in publications and conference presentations. Additionally, she taught several courses at the university level.

Sue's sunny disposition will be greatly missed by her husband of over fifty-seven years, her descendants, her friends and her admirers. To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#).



### Member Spotlight

Aaron Card, Public Relations



**Whitney Roberts** of Farmington Hills, Michigan, found her connection to the *Mayflower* Pilgrims, discovering that her 13th Great Grandmother is Susanna (Jackson) (White) Winslow. A lifelong interest in family history, sparked by childhood experiences and a memorable moment in Detroit, has led to a significant genealogical discovery linking a local family directly to Mayflower ancestry. The

journey began years ago when Whitney's mother and her deep passion for genealogy regularly brought Whitney along to libraries and research trips, including visits to the Daughters of the American Revolution National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. While those early experiences planted the seeds of historical curiosity, it was a pivotal event years later that transformed interest into personal pursuit.

On prom night at The Whitney restaurant, located in Detroit's historic David Whitney House, an unexplained encounter left a lasting impression and prompted deeper reflection on family history. That moment ultimately inspired independent genealogical research using modern online tools. Through extensive review of historical records and collaboration with existing online family trees, the family was able to identify a previously missing generational connection. Whitney Roberts, as well as David Whitney of the Whitney House, are descendants of John and Joanna Hamilton Whitney. This discovery linked their lineage from their earliest ancestor in America directly to the present day. Further research confirmed that Joanna Hamilton Whitney was a descendant of Susanna (Jackson) (White) Winslow, a passenger aboard the *Mayflower*.

**Kristopher Howerly** of Midland, Michigan, found his connection to the *Mayflower* Pilgrims, discovering that his 9th Great Grandfather is Samuel Fuller. Kristopher had never heard of Samuel Fuller until a little over eight years ago, following the passing of his mother. At that time, he began researching his family history using Ancestry.com and other DNA-based genealogy services. His initial focus was on his paternal lineage, specifically his third great-grandfather, who immigrated around 1855.

During his research, Kristopher connected with a maternal cousin named Judi. Through their conversations, he learned that Judi's brother had applied for membership in the Mayflower Society and had established descent from Samuel Fuller. With this information, and after conducting extensive additional research, Kristopher was able to document and prove his own lineage to Samuel Fuller.

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(Continued from the front page...)

For those of us who trace our lineage to Plymouth, this season invites reflection. Our ancestors were not just name on. They were human beings who endured loss, fear, and uncertainty. The courage we admire in them certainly was not the absence of sorrow, but the decision to continue in spite of it. Their legacy is not merely that they survived; it is that they chose hope.

As descendants, we inherit more than a name on a passenger list. We inherit their story of resilience, covenant, community, and faith under immense pressure. In my own times of transition, I am reminded that renewal often follows hardship. That same spring sun that rose over Plymouth in 1621 still shines on us today.

Come celebrate Spring with us in 2026 at our annual Spring luncheon and break bread with your Mayflower brethren.



## Help Preserve History

Karen Braddy Lambert



The Mayflower Society depends on the generosity and support of our members and friends around the world to carry out our mission. We invite you to help us continue reaching out to share the principles of civil and religious liberty that the Mayflower Pilgrims brought to America and to tell their story – a legacy that means so much to us and to future generations.

You may wish to make an unrestricted gift to help the General Society with our most urgent projects, or you may choose to donate to a Special Project.



An unrestricted gift to our **General Fund** typically provides aid to our most urgent projects. In the past, our unrestricted funds have contributed to additional

Mayflower Lineage Match staff and matching grant costs for our Feasibility Study of the Mayflower Society campus. Giving an unrestricted gift and supporting our operating facilities truly provides the foundation our Society needs to uphold our mission and values.

## Additional Projects

**Garden Walkway** - Located in the Colonial Revival Garden as a Fundraising Project in 2011, over 600 engraved, donated bricks have been installed. We encourage members and friends to place a brick to celebrate, honor or remember their families.

**Mayflower Society House** - Help preserve, protect and interpret The Mayflower Society House property, the Research Center, its surrounding gardens and a sizeable collection of decorative arts, antiques and artifacts of significance not only relating to the Pilgrims, but to the historic town of Plymouth.

**Governor General's 1620 Project** - The Governor General's 1620 Club Membership is a designation given to The Mayflower Society's donors who give at the level of \$1,620 or more per year. These donations are designated for special projects that would not otherwise be supported. Donors receive an exclusive 1620 Club pin, and an invitation for two to the Governor General's annual tour, followed by the 1620 Club Banquet.

**The Candlelight Service** - The Mayflower Society has partner with FreeWill, an online tool that guides you through the process of creating your will or trust. It's easy to use, accessible online, and can be completed in 20 minutes. After signing a new will that names the General Society of Mayflower Descendants as a beneficiary, be sure to inform us so that we can welcome you to **The Candlelight Circle**.

Our most sincere thanks go out to each of our members who so generously donate to our annual giving campaign. The success of this appeal and the depth of your support are heartwarming. Your gifts show the importance of the Society in your lives and your commitment to continuing the mission of honoring our past and building for future generations.

[Donate Now](#)

# 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](#)

## Key Dates for 2026

16 May 2026	<b>Board Meeting</b> Kellogg Center, East Lansing 9:00 am
16 May 2026	<b>Spring Luncheon</b> Kellogg Center, East Lansing 11:30 am Punch Meeting at Noon
11-16, Sep 2026	Congress 2026 Plymouth, MA
7 Nov 2026	<b>Compact Day Luncheon</b> Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth 11:30 am Punch Meeting at Noon

MAYFLOWER NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026

Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan  
Lydia Vierson  
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