



The Society of Mayflower Descendants  
in the State of Connecticut

## CONNECTICUT MAYFLOWER SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

October 23, 2021, Chowder Pot Restaurant, 165 Brainard Road, Hartford CT 06114

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Governor Gregory Thompson. Governor Thompson remarked upon the pleasant turnout for this in-person annual membership meeting, the first since the outbreak of the pandemic. He introduced our honored guest, Jane Grove Riddell Hurt, Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and the Board of Assistants present to the general membership and guests.

**Invocation:** Elder Jean Knapp delivered the invocation.

**Presentation of the Colors:** Captain William Lane presented the colors and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Necrology:** Elder Jean Knapp read the necrology and delivered a memorial prayer in remembrance of those who have passed.

**Reading of the Mayflower Compact:** Treasurer David Grant read the Compact and the meeting was recessed briefly while lunch was served to those in attendance.

**Roll Call of the Ancestors:** The meeting was reconvened at 1:00 p.m. with the Roll Call of the Ancestors by David Grant. Ancestor William Brewster had 26 descendants present at the general meeting, the most for any ancestor. The tally of descendants present at today’s meeting from other Mayflower ancestors included:

John Howland, 19	Stephen Hopkins, 12	Isaac Allerton, 6	John Billington, 4
John Alden, 14	Francis Cooke, 9	Edward Fuller, 6	Peter Browne, 2
William Bradford, 14	Edward Doty, 9	Thomas Rogers, 6	Samuel Fuller, 1
William Mullins, 14	Henry Samson, 8	Myles Standish, 6	Degory Priest, 1
John Tilley, 13	James Chilton, 7	Francis Eaton, 5	
Richard Warren, 13	George Soule, 7	William White, 5	

**Minutes of the April 21, 2021, General Membership Meeting:** The minutes of the April 21 General Meeting were unanimously approved following a motion by Barbara Schoenly, seconded by William Lane.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer David Grant remarked upon the good financial condition of Connecticut Mayflower Society and provided the following highlights. Our Wells Fargo Operating Account Balance stands at \$87,019 and the William Murray Fund includes savings of \$6,379.

The Scholarship Fund is funded by proceeds from donations and our twice annual raffles held at the general meetings of the CT Mayflower Society and has a face value of \$248,912 and an actual value of \$251,612 with earnings of \$2,954. The Scholarship Fund allows us to provide two scholarships to graduating high school seniors and one graduate student, who are Members of Connecticut Mayflower Society or Junior Affiliate members whose sponsors’ membership status is in good standing in the Connecticut Mayflower Society. The Scholarship Fund is comprised of three major components including the S&P ETF with an actual value of \$97,385 or 39% of the total; Bonds with a face value of \$81,000 or 33% of the total; and Vanguard Star with an actual value of \$55,827 or 22% of the total. The remainder of the Scholarship Fund includes smaller holdings in CDs and our Money Sweep account. Treasurer Grant noted that the value of the Scholarship Fund has increased



150% since October 2011 when the fund was valued at \$100,444. David further noted that today's raffle has raised \$870 in support of the Scholarship Fund.

The Life Member Fund has a face value of \$237,685 and an actual value of \$243,535 with earnings of \$4,117. The Life Member Fund is comprised of two major components including Bonds with a face value of \$87,000 or 38% of the total and S&P ETF with an actual value of \$83,274 or 34% of the total. The remainder of the Life Member Fund includes smaller holdings in CDs, Vanguard Star, and our Money Sweep account. The value of the Life Member Fund has increased 100% since October 2011 when the fund was valued at \$143,327.

**Historian's Report:** The Historian's Report is usually given in person and orally at each general membership meeting. Historian Midge Hurtuk noted that if she read all the names of new members since we last met in person, it would cover 8 pages with about 200 new members. In the interest of time, she read the names of new members present and asked them to come forward to be recognized by the membership.

**Connecticut Governor's Appreciation Awards:** Governor Gregory Thompson presented a Certificate of Appreciation to outgoing Elder Jean Knapp who has provided thoughtful and encouraging invocations, memorial prayers, and benedictions at our meetings. She has been an inspiration to us all over many years of service in her role as the Elder of the Connecticut Mayflower Society.

Governor Thompson presented Certificates of Appreciation to Kerry Comisky and Randy Russell, outgoing co-editors of *Nutmeg Gratings*, the newsletter of the Connecticut Mayflower Society. Their editorship and successful handoff to a new editor is a testament to their efforts to keep members informed and educated about our shared legacy as descendants of the Mayflower passengers.

**Raffle and Pennies for Planks:** Julia Parker Post organized a beautiful and well-stocked inventory of nearly forty decorative and engaging items for the meeting raffle. Mary Brown encouraged everyone to donate to the Pennies for Planks program. This program is designed to raise funds to retire the debt of repairing and restoring *Mayflower II* and to support the annual upkeep of the ship, a full-scale reproduction of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to Plymouth in 1620. We are happy to work with Plimoth Patuxet Museum to preserve this artifact of our shared heritage and challenge other Mayflower chapters to match our Pennies for Planks donations.

**Nominations for Connecticut Mayflower Society Officers and Board of Assistants to serve from October 2021 to October 2024:** Joan Prentice read the list of those standing for election at today's meeting.

Governor, Gregory Thompson  
Deputy Governor, Kerry Comisky  
Recording Secretary, Katherine Simmons  
Corresponding Secretary, Nancy Merwin  
Treasurer, David Grant  
Historian, Midge Hurtuk

Captain, William Lane  
Archivist, Kenneth Roach  
Assistant, Judi Lynn Paige  
Assistant, Joan Prentice  
Deputy Governor General for CT, Mary Brown

The nominated slate was unanimously approved following a motion by Theresa Latimer, seconded by Mary Wassung. Following their election, the newly elected Board of Assistants were sworn in by Jane Grove Riddell Hurt, Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.



**Bylaws Amendments:** Sara Champion of the Bylaws Committee recommended adoption of the following amendments to Article II and Article V of the Connecticut Mayflower Society Bylaws. The amendments to these articles are noted in bold italic as follows:

ARTICLE II: Section 2. The Board of Assistants shall meet at least once a year to carry on the business of the Society at any date and location. Other meetings of the Board of Assistants may be decided by the Board or by call of the Governor. ***All meetings may be conducted electronically in accordance with Article V Section 2.*** The meetings shall follow the order of business as stated in Article VI.

ARTICLE V- Meetings

***Section 1. Annual Meeting.***

The annual meeting of the membership of the Society shall be held in October, or at such time, as near that date, as the Governor and Board of Assistants may determine; and all other meetings of the Association shall be held at such times and places as may be decided upon by the Board of Assistants, except that special meetings may be held at the call of the Governor, or upon the written request of five members of the Association, in which case the Corresponding Secretary shall call a special meeting

***Section 2. Electronic Meetings***

***The Governor at his discretion may authorize any meeting of the Society or of the Board of Assistants by synchronous electronic means (such as internet communication systems, telephone conferences, video conferences, etc.) In order for an official meeting to be conducted electronically, a majority of the members must have access to the appropriate electronic meeting media, as verified by their response to a call for any particular meeting. The technology used for the electronic meetings shall allow the members full access to and full participation in all meeting transactions continuously throughout the specified time of the meeting. Notice of each electronic meeting shall include a description of electronic means to be used to connect and directions for how to connect.***

The proposed amendments were unanimously approved following a motion by Katherine Simmons, seconded by Kevin Eaton.

**Presentation by Jane Grove Riddell Hurt, Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower**

**Descendants:** Governor General Hurt walked us through her personal journey to becoming the Governor General as a retired executive in the manufacturing industry and real estate, and in her varied official roles at the Kansas state chapter of the Mayflower Society and on the Board of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants is global enterprise with chapters in all states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Europe, and Australia. Governor General Hurt drew our attention to five major projects that are underway at the General Society's main campus at Plymouth, Massachusetts:

- Library Repairs to the Mayflower Society House.
- Interior Renovations to the National Pilgrim Memorial Meeting House.
- Removal and replacement of antiquated wiring and plumbing systems.
- HVAC upgrades.
- Repair and restoration of the masonry of foundations and chimneys.



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All these repairs and upgrades will make it possible for the General Society to preserve our treasured archive of historical and genealogical materials and to enable continued research into the history and relevance of the Pilgrims' story.

Governor General Hurt recognized Mary Brown for her efforts to inventory the Mayflower Society House. That inventory has been recently converted to cloud-based technology.

At the close of Governor General Hurt's presentation, Connecticut Governor Greg Thompson presented a \$500 donation from the Connecticut Mayflower Society to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. A personal gift bag of locally produced products and mementos was presented to Hurt as a reminder of her visit to Connecticut.

**Retirement of the Colors and Benediction:** Captain William Lane retired the colors and Elder Jean Knapp provided the benediction for the annual membership meeting which ended at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katherine Simmons, Recording Secretary