



# NUTMEG GRATINGS

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Connecticut

Founded in 1896

March 2024

[www.CTMayflower.org](http://www.CTMayflower.org)

Volume 45, Number 1

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



*Hello, Mayflower Cousins.*

As you read this newsletter, Spring is just around the corner and I'm looking forward to starting seedlings for my vegetable gardens.

I also look forward to seeing you at our April 20 luncheon

meeting at The Woodwinds in Branford. Use the reservation form on page 15 to reserve your place by April 10. Our speaker is Tom Begley, Deputy Director of Collections, Research, & Public Engagement at Plimoth Patuxet Museums.

At the meeting, we will also introduce the 2024 winners of our two \$5,000 scholarships, Haleigh Miller of East Lyme and Molly Nichols of Prospect CT. Each year, the winners impress us with their academic achievement, extra-curricular involvement, and community service and we look forward to meeting them in person.

And don't forget about our popular raffle at each luncheon meeting. Raffle donations leverage hundreds of dollars in support of the scholarship fund as luncheon meeting attendees purchase tickets in the hope of winning one – or more – of the raffle items.

I am pleased to announce that we are once again offering an overnight stay on Mayflower II. This will be the fourth time

that we have offered this program on the famous ship to be held on Saturday, August 17, 2024. It's a wonderful experience and I plan to attend the overnight myself. Want to join the fun? Contact Louise Wagner at [louiseswagner@gmail.com](mailto:louiseswagner@gmail.com) or Mary Brown at [mbrown06239@gmail.com](mailto:mbrown06239@gmail.com) by Monday, June 15, 2024 to reserve your place. More details on the Mayflower II Overnight Stay can be found on page 12 of this newsletter.

Our Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held on October 19, 2024. We will be hosting the new Governor General, Lisa Pennington who will be talking about the Pilgrim Meetinghouse. Lisa and her husband generously donated \$1 million toward the Meetinghouse renovation as her special project.

As my term as Governor of the CT Mayflower Society draws to a close in October, let me say that I have enjoyed serving as your Governor for the past six years. Serving on the Board is a great opportunity to get more involved in the Mayflower Society and I recommend it. If you are interested in serving, please direct all inquiries to Joan Prentice, Nominations Committee Chair, at [jowp32@hotmail.com](mailto:jowp32@hotmail.com)

Looking forward to seeing you at our April 20th meeting and thank you for your support during my six years as Governor.

See you at the April meeting,  
Gregory Evan Thompson, Governor

*Nutmeg Gratings* is published two times per year to inform the membership of items of interest and to educate members and the general public about the Mayflower Society. Historical and genealogical material with supporting bibliographies is also presented. The fact that an article appears in *Nutmeg Gratings* does not in any way reflect that newsletter contributors, volunteers, or the Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendants guarantees the historical accuracy of any information contained herein.

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**CALL FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:** Share your knowledge and stories with fellow members through a newsletter article of your own: your genealogical journey in search of Mayflower and colonial ancestors, a book review, whatever. If you don't feel comfortable writing a piece yourself, send your suggestions to: Kathy Simmons, Newsletter Editor at [kmsartwrk@cox.net](mailto:kmsartwrk@cox.net) and we'll take it from there.

## Welcome New Members to the CT Mayflower Society!

### JOHN ALDEN

Christine I. Brown, Yonkers, NY  
Michelle M. R. Jette, Oakvill CT  
Olivia S. Koehnlein, Palm City FL

### WILLIAM BRADFORD

Emma C. Driggs, Canton GA  
Dr. Richard M. Gutierrez, Kalamazoo MI  
Brittany M. Hart, Wethersfield, CT  
Leonard R. Jelinek, Old Greenwich CT

### WILLIAM BREWSTER

Mary S. Foti, Chagrin Falls OH  
Matthew T. Fries, Old Lyme CT  
Jane S. Schellens, Old Lyme CT  
Judith R. Whitney, Chester CT  
Erica J. B. Zick, Shelton CT

### PETER BROWN

Andrea R. Beebe, Ridgefield CT  
William L. Palmer, Ridgefield CT  
Lillian P. Reeves, Ridgefield CT

### FRANCIS COOKE

Elizabeth A. Watson, Norwell MA  
**EDWARD DOTY**  
William F. L. Rodgers, Newtown CT

### FRANCIS EATON

Fred I. Caswell, Jr., Stafford CT  
David W. Nicol, Thomaston CT

### EDWARD FULLER

Jason Terry, Wilton CT

### CONSTANCE HOPKINS

Christopher D. Snow, Southington CT

### STEPHEN HOPKINS

Raymond Jon Krause, Louisville KY  
Timothy P. Ryan, Trumbull CT  
Carolyn S. H. Salzman, Westport CT  
Christopher B. Sanborn,  
Palm Beach Gardens FL  
James Sanborn, Ledyard, CT

### JOHN HOWLAND

Nora G. Elder, Tuscaloosa AL  
Graeme K. Mackenzie, Wethersfield CT  
Abigail Rose Nevin, Westport CT  
Caroline Joy Nevin, Westport CT  
Lucy Lynn Nevin, Westport, CT

### DEGORY PRIEST

Tara K. Johnson, Newtown CT

### MYLES STANDISH

Sandra L. Brewer-Acerra, Manhasset NY

### JOHN TILLEY

Kara L. Snyder, Tucson, AZ

### RICHARD WARREN

Nancy D. Carey, West Hartford CT  
Deborah D. DelMastro, Columbia CT  
Peter H. Keigher, Greenwich CT  
Col. James T. McWain, Trumbull, CT  
Lyman J. McWain, Madison CT  
Diane E. Smith, Middletown CT

## In Remembrance of CT Mayflower Society Members Who Have Recently Passed

*Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.* Matthew 5:4

Sara B. Edwards, d. 9/29/2022, age 82    Betsey S. O. Morrith, d. 4/23/2023, age 81    Stephen G. Twiss, d. 9/20/2023, age 80  
Standley W. Jennings, d. 8/14/2023, age 85    David L. Motycka, d. 1/15/2024, age 92    Gordon B. Wall, d. 5/9/2022, age 93  
John E. Lovell, d. 9/21/2021, age 94    Richard G. Scheller, d. 2/17/2023, age 72    Doris J. Wheeler, d. 12/6, 2022, age 90

## Adopted March 16, 2024: Abeyance Policy

We are very thankful for a large and active membership. Nonetheless, there are 'lost' Members and Life Members for whom we lack contact information. We will continue to exhaust every avenue to re-establish contact with those members. However, when those efforts are exhausted, the member will be placed on Inactive status as we have no way to contact the member.

The CT Mayflower Society Membership Chair shall maintain a list of lost Members and lost Life Members whose mail is returned as address unknown/undeliverable and those Members and Life Members will be considered Inactive with respect to payment of Connecticut Mayflower Society and National Mayflower Society dues.

When an Inactive Member wishes to return to Active status, he or she must contact the CT Mayflower Society Membership Chair, in writing, with an updated mailing address, telephone number, and email address and the Member will be returned to Active status at no cost to the individual beyond unpaid CT Mayflower Society dues for the current calendar year.

When an Inactive Life Member wishes to return to Active status, he or she must contact the CT Mayflower Society Membership Chair, in writing, with an updated mailing address, telephone number, and email address and the Life Member will be returned to Active status at no cost to the individual.

**If you have a question regarding this policy or your Active/Inactive status, please contact Joan Prentice:  
Joan Prentice, CT Mayflower Society Membership Chair, 32 Nichols Lane, Waterford CT 06385.**

**You may also contact Joan by email at [jowp32@hotmail.com](mailto:jowp32@hotmail.com)**

# CT Mayflower Scholarship Program

*Do you have a qualified applicant in your family? If so, please encourage them to apply. Each year, we award two \$5,000 scholarships. We select the two scholarship winners prior to our spring membership meeting each year. All 2025 applications and supporting documentation must be received prior to March 1, 2025. For more information on the scholarship program and how to apply, go to our website - [www.CTMayflower.org](http://www.CTMayflower.org).*

## DONATE AND BECOME A PATRON

*You can keep our scholarship program growing and vibrant with an outright donation or the donation of an item to be raffled off at an upcoming luncheon meeting. We hope you will do both.*

We must maintain and increase our endowed funds so that we can continue to provide scholarships to more students. For an initial donation of \$500 and an annual donation of \$100, you will receive our newly designed Patron lapel pin and bars to show your dedication to assisting our youth in pursuing higher education.

The bars on our Connecticut Scholarship Scholarship Patron pin indicate ranks of the Mayflower crew. Begin with the Boatswain bar, earn the Pilot bar, then the Master Mate bar and finally the Master bar to complete your roster.



Your initial donation of \$500 can be made in installments during the first year. You will receive your pin when you complete the initial donation. You have the option to pay the \$100 annual donations in one lump sum and receive all your bars at one time. If you care to donate more, please do so with our sincerest thank you. The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Connecticut is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible to the extent the IRS will allow.

**Please accept my donation of:**  \$500    \$800    \$100    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE : \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and your check, payable to CT Mayflower Society, to David L. Grant, 4 Holly Farm Ln, Simsbury, CT 06070. Write CT Mayflower Scholarship Fund in the memo line of your check.

## SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND WITH A DONATION TO OUR SEMI-ANNUAL RAFFLES

These raffle donations leverage hundreds of dollars as luncheon meeting attendees purchase tickets in the hope of winning one – or more – of the raffle items. Look at that table of goodies from a recent meeting. *Let's keep it going!*

What to donate? New or well-cared for books; knitted, quilted, or needlework items; candles; note cards; seasonal plants; seed and/or bulb packets; table decorations - the options are really endless. Please be sure that donated items are in new or well cared for and clean condition. Consummable items like candy, maple syrup, jams, etc. must be sealed and unopened.

*Bring raffle items to the next membership meeting on April 20, 2024. Bring your check books or extra cash because we are planning a silent auction at the next meeting, in addition to the raffle.*



More questions about the Scholarship Program?

Contact Scholarship Chair Mike Pollock.  
[mikepollock8039@comcast.net](mailto:mikepollock8039@comcast.net)

**If you have renewed your membership, THANK YOU!**

**If not, you can pay online at [www.ctmayflower.org](http://www.ctmayflower.org) via PayPal or credit card.  
If paying by check, make your check payable to CT Mayflower Society and mail it to:  
Joan W. Prentice, CSMD Membership, 32 Nichols Lane, Waterford CT 06385-3611.**

Annual dues are \$65, \$35 of which goes to the General Society.  
Annual dues expire on September 30 of each calendar year

***Still have a question about your membership?  
Contact Membership Chair Joan Prentice at [jowp32@hotmail.com](mailto:jowp32@hotmail.com)***

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**Connecticut Mayflower Society Name Tag Order Form - Available for \$20 each.**

NAME ON PIN: \_\_\_\_\_

Select:  Pin Back  Magnet Back

NAME ON PIN: \_\_\_\_\_

Select:  Pin Back  Magnet Back

**Ordered by:**

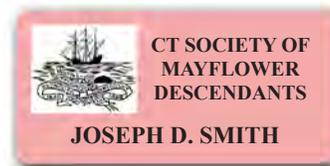
No. Badges \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20 each = \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_



**Make check payable to CT Mayflower Society.**

**Mail payment with order form to: Gregory Thompson, 17 David Drive, East Haven, CT 06512**

**Enroll your young family members as Junior Affiliate members.**

*We believe that families become more engaged in their Mayflower heritage when children are included.* Any Mayflower Society member may sponsor a person under 18 years of age for Junior Affiliate Membership. The Junior Applicant must be a blood relative of a current or past member of the Mayflower Society. At age 18, the Junior Affiliate may apply for adult membership in the Society via the usual application process.

**Download Junior Affiliate Enrollment Form at**

**[http://www.ctmayflower.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/2021\\_JrAffForm.pdf](http://www.ctmayflower.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/2021_JrAffForm.pdf)**

**Contact Junior Affiliate Chair Judi Paige at [jphearts67@gmail.com](mailto:jphearts67@gmail.com) if you have further questions.**

**General Society of Mayflower Descendants Insignia Guidelines**

If you have served in multiple positions in the Mayflower Society, either at the state or national level or both, you may have insignia in the form of pins, badges, and neck medallions to wear in recognition of your service and achievements. The General Society has issued helpful GSMD Insignia Guidelines on how to wear your insignia, See Resources on [www.CTMayflower.org](http://www.CTMayflower.org). Note that all insignia are purchased through the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Questions, Email: [nancyamerwin284@gmail.com](mailto:nancyamerwin284@gmail.com).



# The Mayflower Society 2024 Virtual Lecture Series

*Did you know? In 2021, the Mayflower Society launched a popular Lecture Series covering Mayflower Pilgrim-related topics including their odyssey, their life and times, their maritime experience and, of course, genealogy - and lots more!*

No pre-registration is required for these webinars that are free and open to all. If you miss one, the events are recorded and available [on demand from the General Society's website](#) so you can watch them at a time of your choosing.

## UPCOMING 2024 VIRTUAL LECTURES

**APRIL 11 - 7 PM: David Landon, *Pits, Posts and Palisades: The Archaeology of Patuxet and the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Plimoth Colony Settlement.***

For the last decade, archaeologists from University of Massachusetts-Boston have been excavating remains of the original 17<sup>th</sup> century Plimoth Colony and Wampanoag settlement of Patuxet in downtown Plymouth, MA. On Cole's Hill, evidence for Patuxet has been uncovered, while on Burial Hill, structures from the early English settlement dating from ca. 1620-1650 have been discovered and documented. This presentation, with [Dr. David Landon](#), Associate Director of the Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research, will showcase the results of those excavations, highlighting the many different artifacts unearthed, the evidence of the earliest English building construction methods, and the relationship between the English and Wampanoag settlements.

**MAY 16 - 7:00 PM: Jonathan Lane, *Families and Freedoms: Connections between the Mayflower and the American Revolution.***

Jonathan Lane is an historian with the Massachusetts Historical Society and the coordinator for [Revolution 250](#), an organization dedicated to commemorating the American Revolutionary War. He will discuss how the Mayflower passengers and their descendants were influential in how the American Revolution ultimately took place.

**JUNE 6 - 7:00 PM: Mark Schmidt, *D-Day Deceptions.***

June 6, 2024, is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Normandy invasion—Operation Overlord, more commonly known as “D-Day”. But to keep such a massive undertaking a secret was an incredible feat. Mark Schmidt, Executive Director for the Mayflower Society and former director of the Museum of World War II, will discuss the magnitude of the deception, the politics that accompanied its implementation, and the extent of its success.

**SEPTEMBER 26 - 7:00 PM: Dr. Lindsay Chervinsky, *Making the Presidency: John Adams and the Precedents that forged the Republic.***

As 2024 is an election year, [Dr. Lindsay Chervinsky](#), an historian of the Presidency, political culture, and the government—looks at how our second President set the stage for many later traditions and trends.

**OCTOBER 10 - 7:00 PM: Laurence Bergreen, *Marco Polo.***

Marco Polo opened Asia to European trade, so we're told, but we generally don't know much else. Historian [Laurence Bergreen](#) remedies that by bolstering Polo's reputation and arguing for his historical importance. Bergreen has written biographies of Louis Armstrong, Irving Berlin and Ferdinand Magellan, and here he retraces Polo's steps to Mongolia and China.



*Continued on page 7*

**NOVEMBER 7 – 7:00 PM: Thomas Weaver, *The Electoral College: Why it endures despite two centuries of criticism.***

Despite the opinion of Alexander Hamilton that the Electoral College was the only part of the Constitution to escape criticism, few clauses in the Constitution have been subjected to more consistent questioning than the Electoral College. [Thomas Weaver](#) will explore the people and events that shaped America's unique form in choosing a chief executive, telling the story through the eyes of people who lived it—including stories that involve murders, duels, shootouts, corruption, greed, teenage elopement, and a secret midnight ride in the back of a mail carriage to save the Constitution.



**NOVEMBER 14 - 7:00 PM: Stephen Tomkins, *The Journey of the Mayflower***

The sailing of the Mayflower was not just a foundational American event—it was also the culmination of a radical English religious movement. This is the story of that underground church, one of prison and killings, spies and subterfuge, theological controversy and sexual scandal, and the invention of religious freedom. [Stephen Tomkins](#) is a writer, broadcaster, editor and speaker, and the author of seven books.



**PREVIOUS LECTURES** available [on demand from the General Society's website](#)

### 2024

Caleb Johnson, *The Mayflower and Her Passengers*

### 2023

Denise Cross, *Bridging the Gap: Getting around Brick Walls, Looking into your Genealogical Background*

Tom Begley, *Welcome to Plimoth Patuxet*

Brett Phaneuf, *The Voyage of Mayflower 400*

Donna Curtin, *Welcome to Pilgrim Hall Museum*

Virginia Postrel, *The Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Made the World*

Bill Cole, *Puritans, Plagues and Promises*

Anne Mason, *Welcome to the Plymouth Antiquarian Society*

Misha Ewen, *The Virginia Venture: American Colonization and English Society 1580-1660*

Joan DeJean, *Mutinous Women*

Richard Thompson Ford, *Dress Codes: How the Laws of Fashion made History*

John Turner, *The Pilgrims and America's War over its History*

**More lectures available for 2022 and 2021!**

## Mayflower Indexers are needed by the General Society

The indexing platform to digitally capture the life events of every generation from verified Mayflower applications is going strong but can use your help. The General Society's crew of indexers is global with some in Canada, Europe, and Australia - so you can truly index from anywhere with a good internet connection. All applications are indexed by two volunteers with third "arbiter" who is there to resolve discrepancies and assure accuracy.

Only Mayflower Society members are eligible to index. To ensure the confidentiality of application data, all indexers are required to sign a Nondisclosure Agreement form. A User Guide is available to provide detailed instructions. Since applications have changed over the years, Mayflower Society staff are available to answer questions.

Once complete, the Mayflower Generations Index will fuel the Easy App Generator which will populate new Mayflower Society member or supplemental applications with approved data. When fully implemented the Generator will improve the application process for everyone - applicants, member society historians, and library and verifier teams.

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



**Brownstone Memorialized Our Connecticut Ancestors – Katherine Simmons**

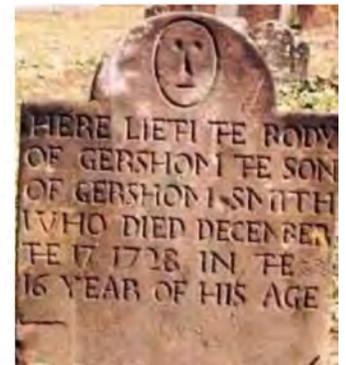
*If you were traveling up the Connecticut River near Middletown, you would never guess that just north of the Arrigoni Bridge to Portland lies Portland Quarry, an historic landmark. For 300 years, the quarry has been mined for brownstone. Elegant houses in Hartford, Boston's Back Bay, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, and Manhattan were so uniformly clad in this distinctive stone that the term "brownstone" became synonymous with the exquisite homes of the well-to-do. Those of us who have traipsed through countless old graveyards in search of our ancestors' final resting places are very familiar with the distinctive grave markers made from brownstone ... they are everywhere.*

The Stanclifts were one of the earliest stone carving families of the lower Connecticut River Valley. James Stanclift I was the patriarch of this carving family who came to Connecticut from England via the island of Nevis in the West Indies, where he was indentured for four years. Following his indenture, he moved to Lyme, Connecticut about 1684 and then to what is now Portland, Connecticut where his family owned and operated the Portland quarry for many years.

The stones of James Stanclift I are generally distinguishable by their plain design. He carved in large capital letters on stones that usually have evenly rounded tops, some with lateral "shoulders" that were characteristic of many New England gravestones. The Stanclift family of carvers are thought to be the first to add the winged skull motif to their stones. Some of these early winged skulls, sometimes adorned with a small crown, look downright spooky to our modern eyes but were meant to symbolize the ascent of the soul to heaven.

After Stanclift's death in 1714, his sons William and James Stanclift (who changed the spelling of their last name) inherited his property and carried on as stonecutters, with some competition from the Thomas Johnson dynasty of the "Upper Houses" of Middletown, now Cromwell. The "Thomas Johnsons" – Thomas I, Thomas II, and Thomas III – were very prolific and skilled carvers whose work spread far across the state and beyond.

The gravestone of Hannah Gates, widow of Deacon Thomas Gates (shown upper right on the facing page) is attributed to Thomas Johnson I and is characteristic of the Johnson style: oval face with chin, upright feathered wings, sinuous floral



Examples of Stanclift gravestones courtesy of the [Connecticut Gravestone Network](#).

*Continued on page 9*

design with leaves in the side panels and fine lettering. The grave is located in the Old Cove Burial Ground in East Haddam, Connecticut and is in remarkable condition given its age and the condition of the old burial ground in general.

The gravestone of Sarah (Mack) Smith, widow of Captain Matthew Smith of East Haddam (shown middle right) is also located in the Old Cove Burial Ground. This stone is attributed to Thomas Johnson II and shows that the acorn doesn't fall far from the oak. The carving of this stone is essentially the same design as the Gates stone although the "hand" of the artist is evident particularly in the arched panel. The head, the feathered wings and the crown, and the striated background are conceived as a whole rather than as disparate parts.

The Johnsons were so successful they eventually bought the entire Portland Quarry. The Johnsons were also trendsetters in gravestone designs, with many imitators. Even after Thomas Johnson III died in 1789, stones copying the Johnson style were being produced as late as 1829.

One might ask, why do these stones lose part of their surface through flaking? A common issue with graves markers made of brownstone, is spalling. Spalling is when small pieces of stone fall away from the surface, usually in thin shards. Sometimes, you will see brownstone grave markers with major sections of the stone face missing due to spalling. And this is largely due to the nature of the stone itself.

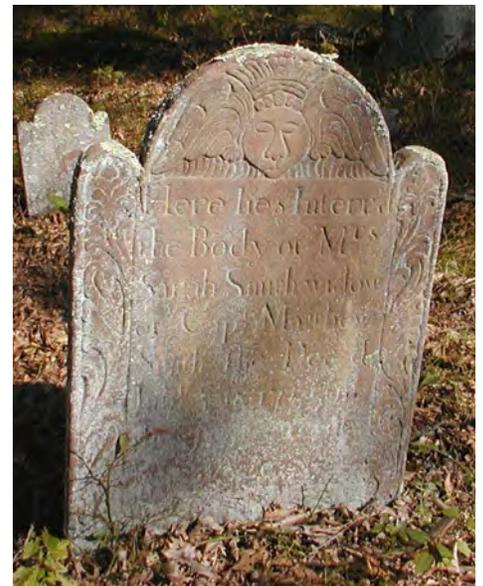
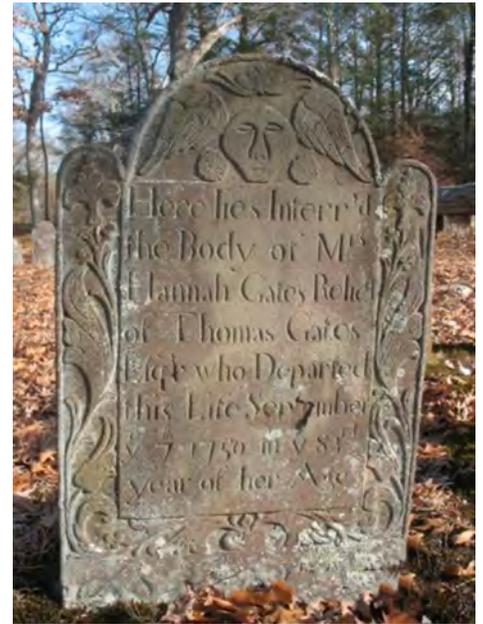
Brownstone is a stone that was formed in layers over millions of years; it's a porous sedimentary rock that allows water to easily flow through it via tiny holes, similar to a sponge. Exposure to repeated cycles of rain, freezing, and thawing can cause small to large sections of the stone's face to fall away.

So, why are some markers in worse condition than others. Generally, it means there is more water moving through or trapped inside the porous stone due to the makeup of that particular piece of stone. Perhaps, the marker is in a heavily wooded area that retains moisture in the stone and is subjected to repeated cycles of freezing and thawing. Or perhaps the marker is in an area with exposure to salt from winter road treatments.

The stones in the Old Cove Burial Ground shown on this page display evidence of lichens growing on the surface, probably due to the fact that the Old Cove Burial Ground is heavily wooded.

If one of these lovely brownstones marks the grave of your ancestor, you should resist the temptation to do a grave rubbing due to its delicate surface. Take a picture instead. It would also be a mistake to clean one of these stones - or any other old stone marker - without first consulting your local historical society.

But wait! There are still some markers standing that are in remarkable condition. Observe the majestic brownstone grave marker for Abiel Abbot dated 1758 (shown lower right) carved by Peter Buckland of Manchester, Connecticut. The influence of the Johnson's style is apparent. Nonetheless, Buckland uses his own designs for the borders and face; the top portion of the stone is clearly a departure from the Johnson style with its shaped upper panel, border, and the addition of rosettes above the foliated side panels. This marker is located in the Edwards Cemetery in South Windsor.



*Continued on page 10*

Peter Buckland's work was popular in such towns as East Hartford, Glastonbury, Wethersfield, Tolland, South Windsor and of course his hometown of Manchester. While the most notable brownstone quarry in Connecticut was the Portland Quarry, started by the Stanclift family, other CT river quarries existed in Manchester, South Windsor, Windsor and East Longmeadow.

Peter Buckland (1738–186) and his brother William (1727–1795) owned a Brownstone Quarry in Manchester (Buckland Quarry), but they would also use stone from the South Windsor Quarry as well as stone from Portland, and grey granite schist from the quarry in Bolton Notch. The carving of Peter and William can be found throughout the region. According to Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, executive director of the Connecticut Gravestone Network, a nonprofit organization that promotes the preservation of old graveyards, William and Peter Buckland created works of art that are beautiful as well as historic.

If you have ever wondered what a brownstone grave marker looked like when it was freshly carved, a good example might be the gravestone of Rebekah Hayes (shown on this page) who died in 1733 and is buried in the Center Church on the Green Churchyard in New Haven. Rebekah was the great grandmother of President Rutherford B. Hayes and her stone was carved by Thomas Gold (1733–1800) whose work can be found in New Haven and other towns along Long Island Sound. This cemetery started as a normal churchyard but in 1812 a new meetinghouse was built atop a portion of the graveyard. Rather than removing the burials or gravestones, they were left in place, and were incorporated into the basement of the new building. While this stone sustained damage early in its existence, the top two-thirds is quite pristine.

You might ask yourself, “Are there still stone carvers around who do this kind of work?” The answer is, “yes.” There are a few stalwart individuals who still practice this old art. There are an estimated 20 shops in the United States that specialize in headstone carving, many of them based in New England because of the region's colonial history and abundance of stone. Sigrid Coffin is one of those stonecarvers. She is one-half of Coffin & Daughter - [www.lettercutter.com](http://www.lettercutter.com) – in Belfast, Maine. She joined her father in the business after studying bookbinding and calligraphy.

Inside their studio, small slate tiles lay scattered around the room. A neatly organized shelf is lined with color-coded chisels—green for granite, blue for slate—and a half-dozen headstones in various stages of completion await finishing touches. A work in progress rests on a purpose-built easel. The process of hand-carving a gravestone is time-consuming. A single memorial can take 70 hours or more, and Sigrid Coffin and her father, Douglas Coffin, complete 15 to 20 each year.

**Sources:** ColonialConnecticutGravestones.Tumblr.com. CTGravestoneNetwork.com. PortlandLandmarks.org. TruthfulKindness.com. AtlasObscura.com. www.LetterCutter.com. www.GretaRybus.com.



Gravestone of Rebekah Hayes



Photo Credit: Greta Rybus for Atlas Obscura.

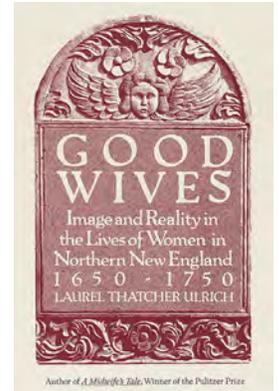


## March is Women's History Month. Learn about the world of early colonial women.

### **Good Wives: Image and Reality in the Lives of Women in Northern New England, 1650-1750.**

Written by historian Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, winner of the 1991 Pulitzer Prize for her book *The Midwife's Tale*. Available in paperback at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

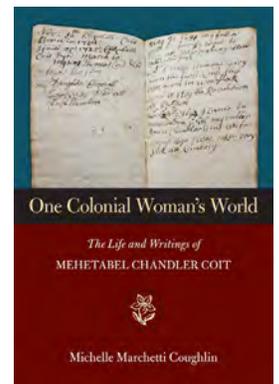
This work of scholarship strips away abstractions to reveal the hidden and not always stoic face of the “goodwives” of colonial America. Encounter the awesome burdens and the considerable power of a New England housewife’s domestic life and witness her occasional forays into the world of men. See her borrowing from her neighbors, loving her family, raising--and, all too often, mourning--her children, and even attaining fame as a heroine of frontier conflicts or notoriety as a murderess. Painstakingly researched, lively with scandal and homely detail, *Good Wives* is history at its best.



### **One Colonial Woman's World: The Life and Writings of Mehetabel Chandler Coit.**

Written by Michelle Marchetti Coughlin. Available in paperback at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

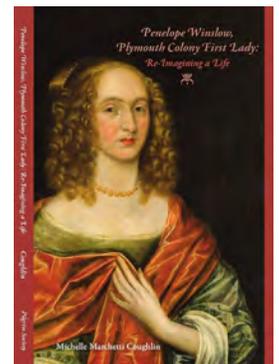
This book reconstructs the life of Mehetabel Chandler Coit (1673–1758), the author of what may be the earliest surviving diary by an American woman. A native of Roxbury, Massachusetts, who later moved to Connecticut, she began her diary at the age of fifteen and kept it intermittently until she was well into her seventies. A previously overlooked resource, the diary contains entries on a broad range of topics as well as poems, recipes, folk and herbal medical remedies, religious meditations, and financial accounts. An extensive collection of letters by Coit and her female relatives has also survived, shedding further light on her experiences. Coit’s long life covered an eventful period in American history, and this book explores the numerous and sometimes surprising ways in which her personal history was linked to broader social and political developments. It also provides insight into the lives of countless other colonial American women whose history remains largely untold.



### **Penelope Winslow, Plymouth Colony First Lady: Re-Imagining a Life.**

Written by Michelle Marchetti Coughlin. Available in paperback at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Penelope Pelham Winslow was one of the most powerful women in Plymouth Colony’s history. A member of the English gentry (her third-great-grandmother was Anne Boleyn’s sister Mary), she was married to King Philip’s War-era Plymouth Governor Josiah Winslow. Like most of her female contemporaries, however, she has largely been forgotten. Though she authored few surviving documents, she left behind a trove of physical evidence--from her portrait and possessions to surviving homes and archaeological artifacts--that provide great insight into her experiences. They also offer a portal into the world of Plymouth’s women. Michelle Marchetti Coughlin has created a living, breathing portrait of Penelope Winslow, one of early America’s pioneering women.



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*Do you have favorite books to share? Novels or non-fiction, poetry or cooking tips, colonial gardening, life in colonial New England? Send your suggestions to Kathy Simmons, Newsletter Editor. Not comfortable writing a book recommendation yourself? Send suggestions to Kathy, with bullet points on why you recommend the book – we’ll take it from there.*

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## MUSEUMS



## STAY OVERNIGHT ON THE *MAYFLOWER II*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

During an overnight experience on *Mayflower II*, you will discover what it was like to live and work at sea in the 1600s. You and your guests will work as a team to learn the ropes and practice skills and trades that sailors used to get the ship safely from port to port. You'll also experience what life was like for Mayflower's passengers during the 1620 voyage and compare their experience to that of the crew and yours today! To ensure a safe environment for all, this program is not suitable for children. Maximum of 15 people. \$260 per person. Please respond by Monday, June 15th.

Hands-on activities may include:

- A tour of Mayflower II organized by the Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendants
- Raising and lowering the Mizzen sails
- Signing of the Compact in the Captain's quarters
- Curated conversations about life at sea for passengers and crew
- Dinner catered by Plimoth Pawtucket Museums catering department

***Reservations & Information: The Society of Mayflower Descendants in CT***

***Mary Brown 401-529-4082 [mbrown06239@gmail.com](mailto:mbrown06239@gmail.com)***

***Louise Wagner 203-770-1715 [louisewagner@gmail.com](mailto:louisewagner@gmail.com)***

## Mayflower II Tour by Captain Whit Perry



### **The tour of Mayflower II at Mystic Seaport on March 6, 2024 was a huge success!**

We had a fantastic turnout of members and friends who enjoyed an exceptional experience, a private tour of the Mayflower II, which was docked at Mystic Seaport for scheduled maintenance. Our tour guide, Dylan Perry, filling in for his dad, Captain Whit Perry, presented an unscripted talk on what is known about the original Mayflower and an abundance of knowledge about the replica, Mayflower II. Thank you to everyone who attended, and a special kudo to the brave souls who climbed the very tall scaffolding to board the ship!

# CONNECTICUT MAYFLOWER SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

October 14, 2023, 11:30 a.m., The Woodwinds, 29 School Ground Road, Branford CT 06405

**Call to Order, Invocation and Presentation of Colors:** Governor Gregory Thompson called the meeting. Elder Sandra Bullock delivered the invocation. Captain William Lane presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Introductions:** Governor Thompson introduced the Connecticut Mayflower Society Board of Assistants and our program speaker Dr. David J. Naumec.

**Necrology and Memorial Prayer:** Elder Sandra Bullock read the necrology and delivered a memorial prayer.

**Reading of the Mayflower Compact and Roll Call of the Ancestors:** William Brewster and his family had 29 descendants present. The tally of descendants (present at the meeting) of other Mayflower passengers and their families included John Howland (24), John Tilley (22), Stephen Hopkins (17), William Bradford (13), Francis Cooke (12), James Chilton (10), George Soule (9), William Mullins (8), John Alden (7), Francis Eaton (6), Henry Samson (6), William Allerton (5), John Billington (5), Edward Doty (5), Thomas Rogers (5), Edward Fuller (4), Peter Brown (3), Samuel Fuller (3), Degory Priest (3), Myles Standish (3), Richard Warren (3).

**Minutes of the General Membership Meeting on April 23, 2023:** The minutes of the October Meeting were approved following a motion by Kevin Eaton and seconded by Clayton Winslow.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Michael Pollock reported that we are in a good financial position and able to meet our obligations. The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

**Historian's Report:** Historian Midge Hurtuk provided her report of new members and members transferred in from other chapters. On a motion made by Kerry Comisky and seconded by Dayna Drake, the Historian's Report was approved as presented. New members and transfers in, present at the meeting, were recognized by the membership.

**Connecticut Governor's Appreciation Awards:** Governor Gregory Thompson made awards to selected members.

**Meeting Recess:** Governor Thompson recessed the meeting for lunch for about one hour.

**Raffle:** Governor Thompson thanked donors and organizers of the raffle. The raffle raised a record \$1,287 in support of the Scholarship Fund.

**Program:** Dr. David J. Naumec made a presentation on the Pequot War. The Pequot War was an armed conflict that took place in 1636 -1637 between the Pequot tribe and an alliance of the colonists from the Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, and Saybrook Colonies and their allies from the Narragansett and Mohegan tribes. Dr. Naumec is Assistant Professor of History at Central Connecticut State University where he teaches both undergraduate and graduate history courses. His main research interests include Early American Social History, New England History, Native and African American history, Military history, and genealogical research. He is active in the Connecticut Historical Society and The Guns of Norwich Historical Society.

**Retirement of the Colors, Benediction and Adjournment:** Captain William Lane retired the colors and Elder Sandra Bullock provided the benediction. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 pm.



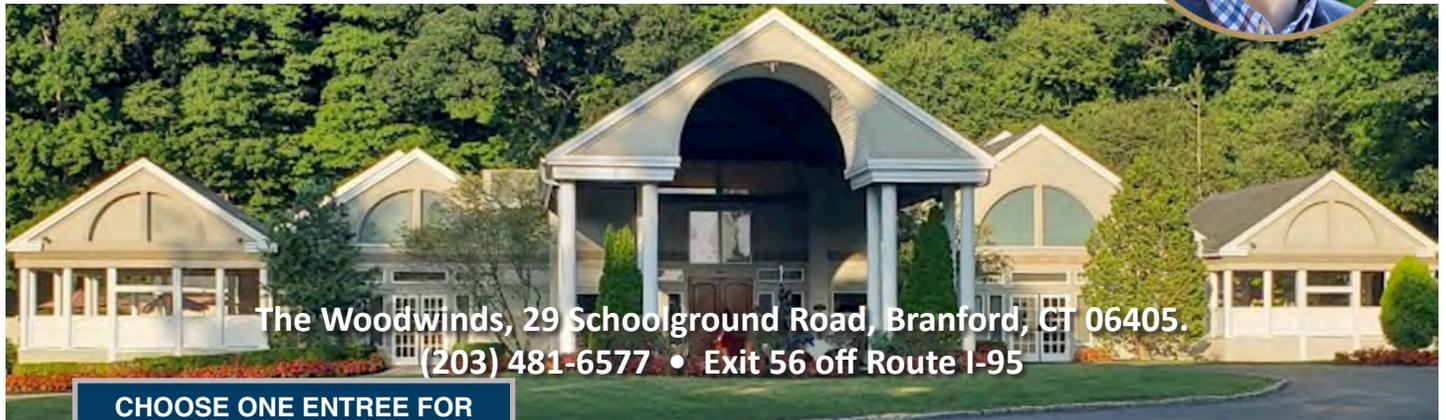
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Press

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Go to <https://themayflowersociety.org/footer/thepilgrimpress/>

# Saturday April 20, 2024, Membership Luncheon Meeting, 11:15 am–2:00 pm

We are proud to announce that our speaker for the October meeting is Tom Begley, Deputy Director of Collections, Research, & Public Engagement at Plimoth Patuxet Museums. Mr. Begley earned a bachelor's in U.S. History from Stonehill College and is completing his master's in Public History at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. In his current role, Tom directs the research facilities and the operations across the exhibit and living history spaces. Tom served as editor on the facsimile of William Bradford's *Of Plimoth Plantation* published in collaboration with the State Library of Massachusetts. The book includes a full copy of the original Bradford manuscript in high resolution and contextualization by staff of both the State Library of Massachusetts and Plimoth Patuxet. From a literary, historical and material cultural lens, this is a key text for both New England and national history. There will be copies available for purchase at the meeting.



The Woodwinds, 29 Schoolground Road, Branford, CT 06405.  
 (203) 481-6577 • Exit 56 off Route I-95

**CHOOSE ONE ENTREE FOR EACH ATTENDEE:**

- Prime Rib of Beef, \$44 x \_\_\_ number of meals = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Stuffed Filet of Sole, \$44 x \_\_\_ number of meals = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Chicken Parmesan, \$44 x \_\_\_ number of meals = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Vegetarian Lasagna, \$44 x \_\_\_ number of meals = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Child's Meal of Chicken Tenders and Fries, \$18 x \_\_\_ number of meals = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*12 years and under only please.*
- Total Amount Submitted \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner includes choice of vegetable, potato, house rolls with butter. Dessert, coffee, and tea served. Cash bar is available.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  NEW MEMBER?

STREET, CITY, STATE & ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please send this completed form and payment (checks payable to Mayflower Society of CT) by April 10, 2024 to:  
 Sandra Bullock, 6 Heritage Rd., East Lyme CT 06333.

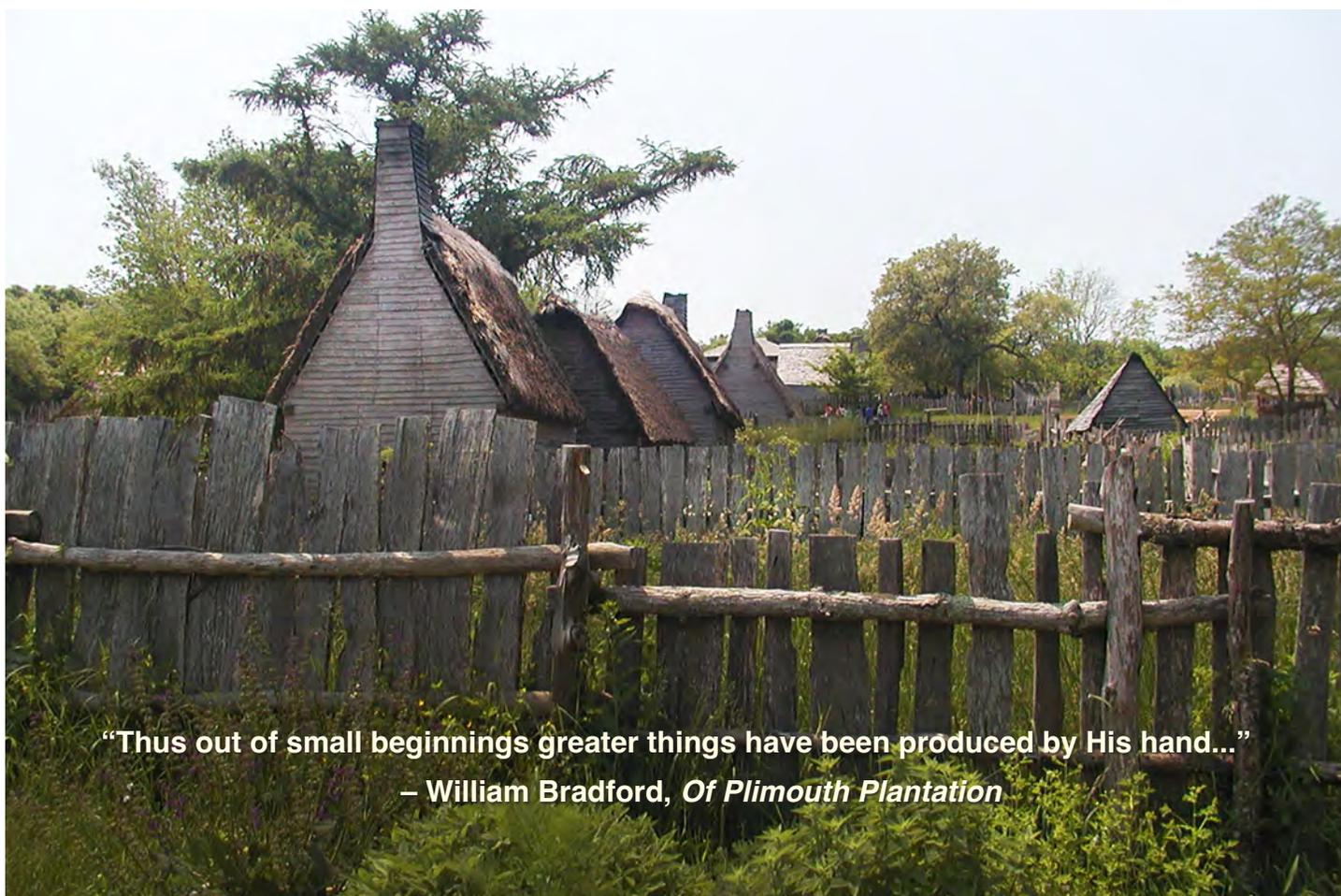
**Mark Your Calendars: Our Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held on October 19, 2024.**



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**“Thus out of small beginnings greater things have been produced by His hand...”**

**– William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation***