



Autumn Gratings

March 2014

Volume 34, Number 1

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

This cold winter makes me marvel at the fortitude of our Pilgrim ancestors. I am cold and I have central heat, an insulated house, and food that I don't have to hunt for. I cannot imagine how their hands and feet must have ached from the cold. They make our daily tribulations seem small.

The research on the Windsor Trading Post continues. Nick Bellantoni, CT State Archaeologist, and Walt Woodward, CT State Historian, have joined our team to investigate the site. On a rainy November morning, Ellen Swayne, Greg Thompson and I met these gentlemen on the campus of Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, CT. We reviewed what we had found to date, walked the campus and viewed an off-campus site. This particular site is now a housing project, so if there was anything there it has disappeared. Nick is working with the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to find more information, and Walt is digging into more primary source material. I will keep you posted on anything that is determined as we go.

Thank you to all who made donations to the scholarship fund in the past year. We are awarding three \$1620 scholarships this year at our April 26th meeting. These young students are the top of their classes and we can be very proud of helping them to be tomorrow's leaders. Please plan on attending and meeting these outstanding youngsters.

The 2020 Committee is moving forward with projects and plans. Bill Warner has new and attractive merchandise sporting the 2020 logo. You can view and purchase on our website, ctmayflower.org, or purchase it at our April 26th meeting.



Alexa Darche has completed her Girl Scout Gold Award. She is a Connecticut Junior Affiliate Member, and we are very proud of our second Gold Award recipient. Alexa's project dealt with the Mayflower House Museum in Plymouth. Our first winner, Faith Mangiafico, created an educational kit to be shared with schools and libraries.

I am working with Plimoth Plantation to develop a new adventure. I would like to follow the path of the *Mayflower* as she sighted Cape Cod and touched at various places prior to Plymouth. This may be either a coach bus trip or, if possible, we are trying to have the trip on a boat. This will be a seaworthy boat with accommodations aboard. More news will be forthcoming as this adventure is developed.

Mary Brown, Governor

Committees 2014

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**Asst. General for CT
In the GSMG**

Mary Brown

**General Society
Treasurer General**

Don Studley

The fact that an article appears in *Nutmeg Gratings* does not in any way reflect that *Gratings*, its staff, or the CT. Society of Mayflower Descendants guarantees the historical accuracy of any information contained

NEW MEMBERS APPROVED

Descendants of John Alden

Russell Scott Lange, Greenwich, CT
Elizabeth Anna Balsavage Johnsen,
Oxford, CT
Nancy Lee Munley, Westport, CT
Elizabeth Ann Seabury Wagner,
Colchester, CT

Descendants of William Bradford

Stephanie Lynne Turner Bungting
Colchester, CT
Peter Storrs Riordan, Darien, CT
Louise Daniels Shurtleff Wagner,
Redding, CT

Descendants of William Brewster

Marcella Zimmerman Becker, Manilus, NY
Cody Tyler Knight, New Canaan, CT

Descendants of Edward Fuller

Abigail Rachel Harris, Plantsville, CT
Nicole Noel Harris, Berlin, CT
Jarrah Mark Vella-Wright, Bulleen,
Victoria, Australia

Descendants of Stephen Hopkins

Paul Carl Leninger, Trumbull, CT
Robert Perry Ulrich, Marlborough, CT

Descendants of John Howland

Adrienne Beverly Waldron Damicis,
Milford, CT
Grace Michaud Ellsworth, Bridgeport, CT

Descendant of Henry Sampson

Alfred Crocker Knight, Old Greenwich, CT

Descendant of Elizabeth Tilley

Ryan Jeffrey Swarts, Ware, MA

Descendant of Richard Warren

Angela Jane Pearson-Bramson,
Danbury, CT

IN MEMORIAM

William Doolittle, Jr.
August, 2013

Our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of our deceased members. May God be with them on their final voyage.

Walter L. Powell, Executive Director of GSMD, To Be April Speaker

Walter L. Powell was hired as the first Executive Director of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in July 2013—moving to Plymouth from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

A native of Connecticut, he holds an M.A. in History and a Ph.D. in English from Kent State University.

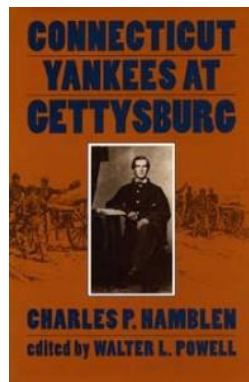
Prior to coming to the Mayflower Society, he served in a number of capacities, including, most recently, Interim Director of the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, and as Executive Director of the Conococheague Institute for the Study of Cultural Heritage in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania.

For 17 years he served as Director of Planning and Historic Preservation for the Borough of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where among his many accomplishments, he directed the restoration of the Gettysburg Railroad Station, built 1858. He also acted as the project historian and borough liaison to the National Park Service project team that directed the restoration and exhibit planning for the historic David Wills House—where President Abraham Lincoln completed the Gettysburg Address. He held a joint appointment as an adjunct professor in the graduate

program in applied history at Shippensburg University and is past president of the Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides at Gettysburg National Military Park and the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association.

The April 26th program for the Connecticut Mayflower Society is based on the extensive work Dr. Powell has done on Connecticut's role in the Civil War, including the book *Connecticut Yankees at Gettysburg* (Kent State University Press, 1993), which he co-authored with the late Charles Hamblen of Norwich Free Academy.

Dr. Powell's book provides the first account in more than 25 years of soldiers from the Nutmeg State and their role during the Battle of Gettysburg.



According to Kent State University Press, the book is a “dramatic narrative ... interwoven with excerpts from the letters and diaries of Connecticut's fighting ranks to produce an extended overview of the battle that will appeal to Civil War buffs, first-time students of Gettysburg, and those interested in Connecticut history. Special attention is given to the 17th Connecticut regiment's distinguished part in the conflict at Barlow's Knoll and East Cemetery Hill, including the little-known action at the Josiah Benner Farm on July 1, 1863.”

2020 Logo Merchandise



A.	Coffee Mug, 15 ounce	\$ 15	E.	Pen, Ballpoint	\$ 5
B.	Water Bottle, 24 ounce	\$ 5	F.	Lapel Pin	\$ 10
C.	Bumper Sticker, 3 X 5 in.	2 / \$ 5	G.	Money Clip	\$ 10
D.	Car Magnet, 3 X 5 in.	\$ 5	H.	Tie Tack	\$ 10

Euro style 3" x 5" bumper stickers and car magnets are now available. For each sticker or magnet, send a check for \$5 made out to CT Mayflower Society, with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Warner, PO Box 232, Thompson, CT 06277. Remember to state your preference(s).

Shipping is also available for all items except the mug and water bottle. Please add 5.00 shipping to your order and send to Bill Warner, address above.

Remember, all proceeds benefit the CT Mayflower Scholarship Fund.

Meet . . .



Joan Prentice

Once a year, most of us, with the exception of life members, receive in the mail an envelope from Joan Prentice, the CT Society's capable membership chairperson. The editors thought you'd enjoy getting to know the woman behind the name. Thanks, Joan, for your devotion and generosity.

Q: You have been a member of the Mayflower Society for many years; please tell us how and when you got interested and involved in family history.

I joined the CT Mayflower Society in 1985 when my mother, June Wright Prentice, gave me a life membership.

Q: Who were your *Mayflower* ancestors?

William Bradford and James Chilton.

Q: How did you find out about them?

My mother did all the research. My parents, aunt and uncle, and cousin were always doing research about my father's Prentice family – going to town halls, cemeteries, libraries, the National Archives, writing for information, etc. and then my mother started to research her own Wright family history. The Prentice family was traced back to the

1600's but there was no *Mayflower* connection. My mother first found a Revolutionary War patriot (Eliphalet Worthington) and kept going further back to William Bradford and the *Mayflower*. She then found James Chilton as a second line. This was all done before information was available online.

Q: Have you met any distant relatives due to your search?

I recently met a second cousin (our grandmothers were sisters) who is now applying for membership in the CT Society. I also met a 2nd cousin once removed. His grandfather and my great grandmother were siblings. He shared photos of two of my 3rd great grandfathers I had never seen before. He died in October 2013 at the age of 92.

Q: How did you get involved in the Society?

My mother was on the Board of Assistants and she got me involved in the 1990's. I was Assistant Treasurer under Henry Hansen and then I was Treasurer for a few years. Back then the Treasurer mailed out annual dues

notices so when I was no longer the Treasurer, I became the membership committee.

Q: Please tell us about the rest of your family and if any of them are involved in the Society.

My brother, John, in Florida and sister, Ann, in Louisiana are life members of the CT Society but are not active in the Society. My sister has taken over the search for lost family members.

Q: What is your favorite part of being involved in the Society?

The Board of Assistants is an interesting and friendly group of people to work with.

Q: What is your position in the Society and how would you describe the work you do?

I am the membership chairperson and I was just elected back onto the Board of Assistants. I maintain the membership database and send out almost 800 renewal notices in late August every year. The database is also used to keep a mailing list for the CT Society's *Nutmeg Gratings* and members' information is sent to Plymouth for *The Mayflower Quarterly*.

Q: Did your career work help you with your work in the Society?

Yes, I retired from the federal government as a computer specialist where I did database work and analyzed data. Since the job activities were similar, one naturally led into the other.

Q: What can you tell us about current membership trends in CTSMD?

There are currently 1,362 members with 62% from Connecticut and the rest from 42 states, Washington DC, Puerto Rico and 8 foreign countries. Alaska, Kansas, Montana, Oregon,

South Dakota, West Virginia and Wyoming are not represented. They range in age from 5 to 102 and some have been members for more than 60 years.

Q: Are you involved in any other genealogy-based groups?

No. I don't have the time for it now.

Q: What is the most frustrating part of your work in the Society?

Members disappear, especially life members, and I don't know where they moved or if they have died. I try to locate them via the internet, and I look for an obituary of our older members.

Q: What is the most rewarding part of your work in the Society?

I find a missing member which is part of the fun of genealogy searching - a puzzle.

Q: Besides CTSMD do you have any hobbies or interests?

I like to garden and I am in a duckpin bowling league. The ages of the women range from the 70s to 90 and a lot of them have a higher bowling average than I, and I am in my 60s. So you are never too old to do something and be good at it.

Q: Please tell us something fun or interesting about yourself!

I volunteer at the New London County Historical Society (Shaw Mansion) in New London, doing computer work one day a week. Last year I put information from a New London police court log book that covers the 1860s to the late 1880s into a database. Most of the charges were for breach of peace. Crimes never change over the years - assault, alcohol abuse, prostitution, repeat offenders, etc. Quite a few women were charged with crimes and were also repeat offenders.

Sixth Annual

Art & Writing Contest

Hey kids, get your thinking caps ready for the Sixth Annual CTSMD Art and Writing Contest!

Imagine you are a kid in 1620 – almost 400 years ago. You have just sailed from a large city in Holland or England, across the entire Atlantic Ocean and have landed in a new land where nothing is familiar to you. The weather is different, the only other people are those you sailed with, there is no established community, there are no buildings, you have to farm and hunt, there are strange wild animals, and different sounds and smells and tastes. There are even “strange looking” people who wear animal skins and speak a different language.

Keeping all that in mind, the theme of this year’s contest is:

“How my ancestor’s life changed in the New World”

Each applicant should submit an original piece of artwork or writing. The winner in each category will receive a blue ribbon **AND A \$75 PRIZE!** Winning entries will be displayed at the April luncheon. Winners who are present at the luncheon will be announced and will receive their prizes at that time (winners need not be present to receive prizes). Winning entries will also be included in the Summer 2014 issue of *Nutmeg Gratings!*

The contest is open for students in grades 1-12. There will be one prize awarded in each grade category: 1-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Acceptable entries include essays, drawings, paintings, cartoons, song lyrics, poems, news articles, letters and diary entries. The entries should focus on at least one major way your ancestor’s life changed after he or she landed in the New World.

All entries should be mailed to: Elisabeth Edwards, 91 New Road, Ridgefield, CT 06877. Please include your name, name of your ancestor(s), your home address, grade in school, and name of school along with your entry. **Entries must be postmarked by April 10, 2014.**

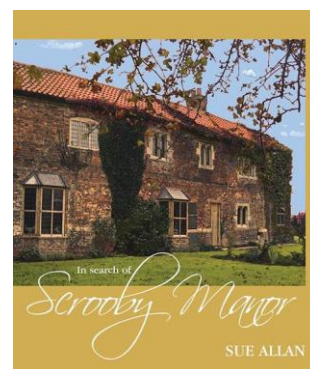
Good luck everyone! Let your imagination be your guiding light, and we hope to see you in April!



Sue Allan to receive
Katharine F. Little Distinguished
Achievement Award on August 23, 2014

Mark your calendars now!

World renowned author, historian, documentary
advisor Sue Allan will be crossing the Atlantic for a one-time
presentation and book signing in Lancaster PA.



When: **August 23, 2014.** More information to come at a later date.

Contact email: debgeorgantis@yahoo.com.

Sue Allan will give a presentation about Scrooby Manor and her incredible journey with Julie Dunstan to unlock the secrets of Scrooby Manor. She will tell us how she trawled through archives in order to piece together tiny scraps of information and countless documents in order to get an idea of what the lost part of Scrooby Manor was once like. Sue will include a power point of photographs taken inside the Manor itself, of the Chapel, the music room, and places people rarely get to see.

Sue Allen Is Asking for Your Help

“Now I am fighting to see my second greatest dream come to fruition, and that is to have a dedicated *Pilgrim Heritage/Visitor Centre* up and running at Scrooby before big *Mayflower* celebrations in 2020. After many failed attempts over the years to get interest off the ground locally for a dedicated Pilgrim Heritage/Visitor Centre in Scrooby, at last the Pilgrim Fathers (UK Origins) Association are about to submit a bid for funding such a much-needed project. To this end we have identified a two-hundred year old barn in need of restoration and development conveniently situated on the main road into Scrooby beside the land mark Pilgrim Fathers’ Pub. In order to be successful in this bid we, the board of the PFA, desperately need to

show the bidding authority written evidence of support for this project and to demonstrate why such a visitor centre is needed in Scrooby.

“For anyone who has made his or her own pilgrimages to Scrooby in the past there is no need for me to point out that without the prearranged aid of a guide or help, there is very little on the ground for either the education and instruction of visitors about this important part of our shared heritage, or even basic facilities like an access washroom or somewhere to get a drink of water when the pub is shut!

“To this end, as the appointed Historian of the PFA and member of the board, *I am therefore imploring people to **email to me a brief letter** outlining their own view as to why such a Heritage/Visitor Centre is so desperately needed to honour and perpetuate the story of the Scrooby Separatists, many of whom went on to become Mayflower Pilgrims. In turn these letters will then be submitted as evidence next month.* We need not only to procure as many letters of support as possible but quickly. To this end they may be sent by email to me at admin@mayflowermaid.com. ”

From Mary Wassung, Program Chairman: “A sincere thank you to all who took the time to answer the program questionnaire at the fall meeting. A surprisingly large number did.

“As the new program chair, I was asking for feedback on the venue --- travel time, parking, meal price, and The Gallery itself. I also asked for direction on the program style.

“Overwhelmingly, an hour’s commute, close parking, and reasonably priced meals were important, and The Gallery is a very satisfactory place to meet. There were a few comments regarding the public address system being problematic. This will be discussed with the management of The Gallery. In all, we seem contented to stay where we are.

“The three types of programs were pretty evenly endorsed. Also, there were wonderful suggestions for future programs. With only two a year, it will be quite a while before we see some of them, but thank you for your suggestions.”

Junior Member Opportunity

The Board of Assistants has waived the application fee for any enrolled junior affiliate members who would like a life membership. We customarily have offered the ability to transfer to adult membership without application fees to juniors during their 18th year. Juniors are often looking at college expenses and do not have the financial ability to take this offer. Very few join later in life. By giving your child, grandchild, niece or nephew a life membership, they will always enjoy this affiliation with no financial strain as they raise and educate their families. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Midge Hurtuk at mhurtuk@aol.com.

General Society Awarding Scholarships

This year the GSMD is again awarding a \$5000 scholarship, a \$2000 scholarship and a \$500 scholarship to high school seniors who are *Mayflower* descendants. Deadline for applications is April 1. Information and materials for applying are available on the GSMD website. You can do a Google search on “GSMD scholarship” to get to the scholarship information and materials.

Alexa Darche Achieves Girl Scout Gold Award

Catalogues More Than 600 Items at Mayflower Museum



The Girl Scouts of America has awarded its highest achievement recognition to Alexa Darche, above right, of Scituate, Rhode Island. She is a Connecticut junior affiliate member and a junior at Scituate High School. Her mother saw a news article about Faith Mangiafico's Gold Award and called it to Alexa's attention. For her project, she decided to work with the Mayflower Society and catalogue the collection at the Mayflower House Museum in Plymouth, using the PastPerfect Software program. Alexa recruited her younger sister Gretchen, above left, to photograph each item as it was entered into the software. These girls put in many days at the museum and were able to catalogue and photograph more than six hundred items. Congratulations to Alexa for achieving this prestigious award and thank you for your invaluable contribution to the Mayflower Museum.

Photos from the October 2013 Luncheon

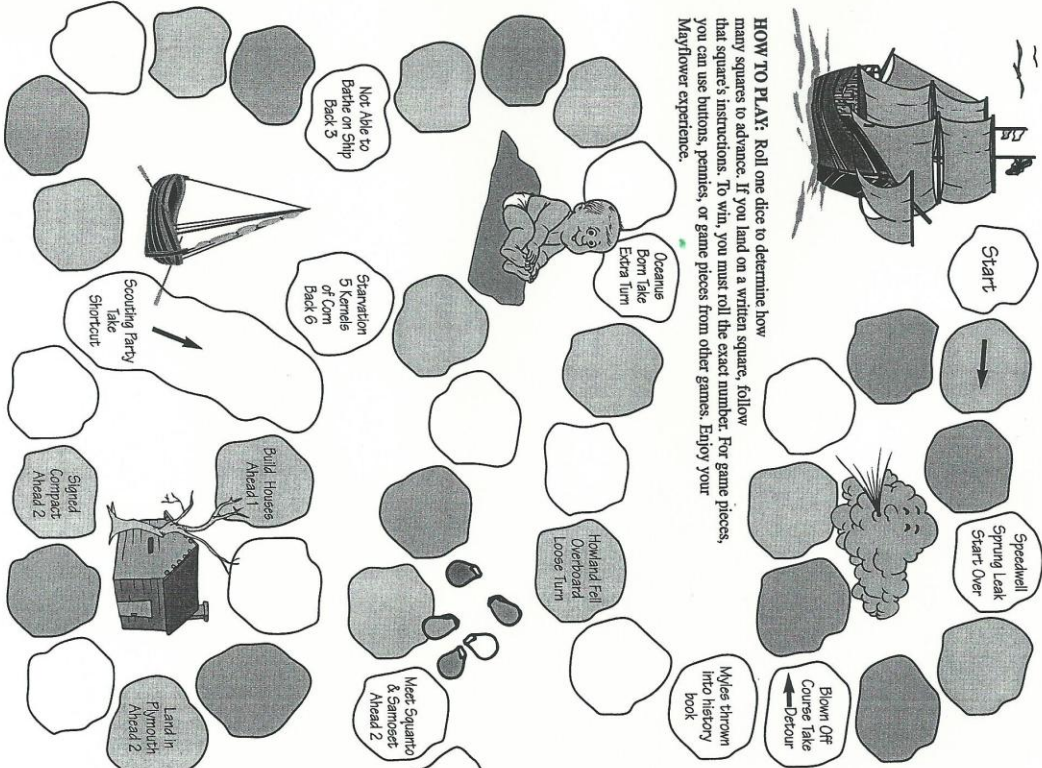


Mary Brown presents David Grant with a citation from the General Society in recognition of his outstanding service as treasurer of the CT Society and his speaking in costume in schools and civic groups in his area.



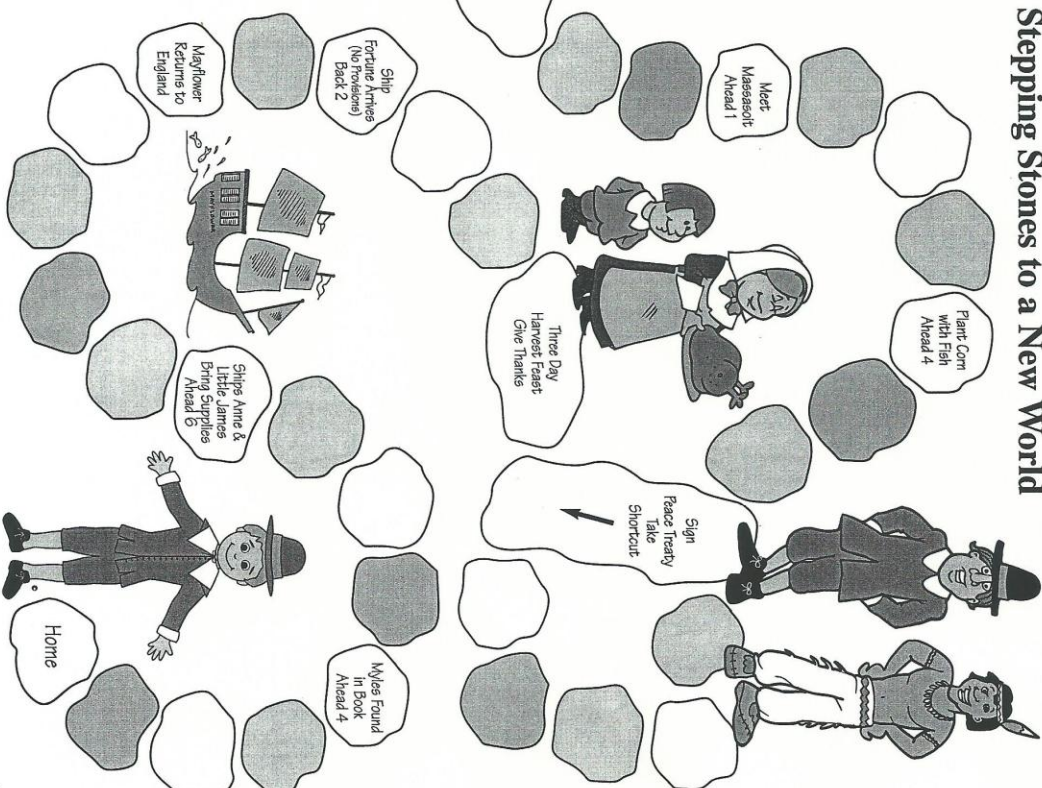
CTSMD Governor Mary Brown swears in recently elected Assistants Joan Prentice and Don Studley.





HOW TO PLAY: Roll one dice to determine how many squares to advance. If you land on a written square, follow that square's instructions. To win, you must roll the exact number. For game pieces, you can use buttons, pennies, or game pieces from other games. Enjoy your Mayflower experience.

Stepping Stones to a New World



*BI-ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 26, 2014
SOCIAL HOUR AT 11
LUNCHEON & MEETING AT NOON*

Our luncheon will be held at The Gallery, 141 New London Turnpike, Glastonbury, CT

Directions:

From Rt. 84: Exit 55 is Route 2 East.

From Rt. 91: Exit 25N (Glastonbury Route 3 N). Follow signs for Route 2 East.

Traveling on Route 2 East: Take Exit 8 (Hebron Ave.) Take a right at the bottom of the exit and a left onto Hebron Avenue at the first traffic light. Then turn left onto New London Turnpike. The Gallery is the second building on the left. Detailed directions and map are available upon request.

✂-----

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE FOR EACH ATTENDEE:

_____ **Chicken Marsala**

_____ **Baked Stuffed Filet of Sole**

_____ **Roast Top Sirloin of Beef**

_____ **Children's Chicken Fingers**

_____ **Vegetarian Eggplant Parmesan**

_____ **Total \$ enclosed**

Dinners include: Caesar salad, mixed vegetables, roasted potatoes, rolls and butter, coffee, tea, decaf, and, for dessert, ice cream pie. There is a cash bar. Non-alcoholic punch and complimentary cheese tray will be served during the social hour.

The price is \$27/person, \$12 for children's chicken fingers. Please send this completed form and payment (checks made to Mayflower Society of CT) by April 15, 2014, to Beverly Warner, PO Box 232, Thompson, CT 06277. (The restaurant requires that reservations be made one week before the event for their ordering and planning. Please make your reservations accordingly.)

Name: _____

_____ **New member?**

Address: _____

Guest: _____

Phone: _____

Guest: _____

Guest: _____

**The Society of Mayflower Descendants
in the State of Connecticut
32 Nichols Lane
Waterford, CT 06385**