

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Connecticut

www.ctmayflower.org

# Alutmeg Gratings

October 2013 Volume 33, Number 3

#### GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Treasures abound in the Mayflower House Museum in Plymouth. I have the privilege of working on the cataloging of the collection project. Alexa Darche is entering all the data onto Past Perfect software for her Girl Scout Gold Award. Her sister Gretchen photographing each object for a visual record. We have experienced many unique objects including a sword hilt that dates back to 1625. You must make an effort to visit our museum in Plymouth and see for yourself the plethora of beautiful possessions that we display there.

Mayflower II should be back in her berth at Plymouth harbor by the time you read this. The Coast Guard approved using a wood other than white oak for some of the repairs. This wood does not have a long life span in sea water and will need to be replaced, but this allows time to find a source of more white oak. If you know of any, please contact Peter Arenstamm at Plimoth Plantation. They must still raise nearly \$380,000 by 2020 to have the Mayflower II completely restored to its original condition. The Connecticut Society has made a contribution and I hope some of our members can see their way to making personal donations.

The 2020 Committee is holding its next meeting October 5th. Do you have any ideas or suggestions that you would like to see in place for 2020? Please contact our chairman Greg Thompson at <a href="mailto:gthomp5749@aol.com">gthomp5749@aol.com</a> with your ideas. We are interested in finding someone

who may have experience organizing a 5K road race. No idea is unworthy of consideration.

We are exploring the logistics of a tour of the archives at Plimoth Plantation. This trip would be to raise money for *Mayflower II.* You will be



amazed at the interesting "stuff" behind the scenes. More on this will be published later. I look forward to providing more educational adventures for our members. Is there a particular adventure you might consider? Please email me at <a href="mailto:mbrown@ct.metrocast.net">mbrown@ct.metrocast.net</a>. Let's see if we can develop your ideas.

#### Thinking of a Christmas gift that will last a life time?

Just a reminder that the Board of Assistants has decided to waive 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. 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.

Mary Brown, Governor

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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

**Descendant of John Alden** 

Bridget Driscoll, Glastonbury, CT

**Descendant of William Bradford** 

Marcia C. Everland, Burlington, CT

**Descendant of William Brewster** 

Laurence Scott Hallett, Stamford, CT

**Descendant of Peter Brown** 

William A. Weiblan, Avon, CT

**Descendants of Edward Fuller** 

Diane Ellen Wright, Bulleen, Victoria, Australia John Allen Wright, Hamden, CT **Descendant of Stephen Hopkins** 

Dorothy Hopper Lupariello

**Descendants of George Soule** 

Corey Kennedy Covell, Wolcott, CT Richard K. Covell, Wolcott, CT Richard Kennedy Covell, Wilmington, NC

**Descendants of Richard Warren** 

Christian Carl Schirmer, Willington, CT Susan Herron MacColl Walker, West Hartford, CT

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

Clinton Yoemans Januay 2011

Alice Tolles January 2013

Richard Gavitt April 2013

Clyde McDannald, Jr. April 2013

> Florence Carter April 2013

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

#### The Midnight Belles

Present

## Songs of the War of 1812

Faye Ringel and April Grant perform programs with historical, nautical, and supernatural themes as The Midnight Belles. Ringel (piano, vocals) and Grant (vocals) have performed before audiences all over the East Coast.

April, from Northampton and now living in Dorchester, MA, has sung old songs all her life, specializing in New England and Old World ballads, and nineteenth-century parlor and stage music. She is a graduate of UMass and the Williams-Mystic Institute. Like Faye, she is a veteran participant in Mystic Seaport's Sea Music Festival. She has performed a a solo singer in venues as diverse as Historic Deerfield, the Glenfarg Folk Club in Scotland, and Storrowton Village of West Springfield, MA.

Faye, a Norwich, CT native, has haunted parlors and libraries from New England to New Zealand, as scholar, storyteller, and author of *New England's Gothic Literature: History and Folklore of the Supernatural*, and as pianist and singer of traditional songs, sweet, sad, and bawdy. She is professor emerita of humanities at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.



#### 2020 Logo Merchandise



| A.        | Coffee Mug, 15    | \$ 1 | 5 | E. | Pen, Ballpoint | \$ 5  |
|-----------|-------------------|------|---|----|----------------|-------|
|           | ounce             |      |   |    |                |       |
| В.        | Water Bottle, 24  | \$   | 5 | F. | Lapel Pin      | \$ 10 |
|           | ounce             |      |   |    |                |       |
| <b>C.</b> | Bumper Sticker, 3 | \$   | 5 | G. | Money Clip     | \$ 10 |
|           | X 5 in.           |      |   |    |                |       |
| D.        | Car Magnet, 3 X 5 | \$   | 5 | H. | Tie Tack       | \$ 10 |
|           | in.               |      |   |    |                |       |

The Euro style 3" x 5" bumper stickers were so popular that we have added additional 2020 Logo merchandise for sale at our October meeting.

Euro style 3" x 5" bumper stickers and car magnets are now available. Send a check for 5.00 dollars made out to CT Mayflower Society with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Warner, PO Box 232, Thompson, CT 06277 stating your preference.

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.



Midge Hurtuk, a member of CTSMD since 1997, has held the position of Historian since 1999. Since that time, Midge has received and processed literally hundreds of applications of folks wishing to join the Society of Mayflower Descendants, and has carefully and thoroughly gone through each one, very often going above and beyond the call of duty. Recently, she approved her 1,000th application, which she then submitted to the General Society in Plymouth, MA. Please take a moment to get to know this hardworking and very generous lady!

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?

Midge: In 1992, my mother had a massive stroke. She lived for several years, but with almost no speech and as a paraplegic. In the early months, I tried to find interests that connected with her. She had always been told that she was a descendant of the Mayflower – from Francis Cooke. One day I was reading a book

to her written by a distant cousin that made this claim. She lit up – so I decided to be her legs. I'd go get the proof to connect us to Cooke and would bring the results to her. I ended up with the proof – proof that there was no way we were descended from him. However, in the process, Caroline Lewis Kardell and Margery Izard helped me prove that we were descendants of James Chilton.

Q: Who were your *Mayflower* ancestors?

Midge: James Chilton was the first, and for many years, the only ancestor. A couple of years ago I added John Howland and Edward Doty. And when Plymouth finally started acknowledging the women, I added Suzanne Chilton, Mary Chilton, and Joan Hurst Rogers.

Q: How did you find out about them?

Midge: Chilton was really handed to me, but the rest were hard won. My family left Plymouth very early – really with the first generation when Mary Chilton migrated to Boston with her husband. From there they went to Maine. I had one generation where I made no progress at all on a spouse. She seemed to have two maiden names. I finally found a will in Auburn, Maine. She had been adopted – hence the two maiden names. Both her bio-father and her adoptive father named her in their wills – by original birth name. That opened up all the other lines. That was a genealogist's hitting the megamillions!

Have you met any distant relatives due to your search?

Midge: That's interesting. I've done so much research on my Mayflower lines – but the only family that has surfaced is through my father's (non-Mayflower) lines and through my husband's Slovakian lines. Frankly, those Slovakian contacts have been the most astonishing.

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

Midge: Like many people who are obsessed with their family history, I have a family that is bored to tears by most of it! The next generation is beginning to have children – and I make them Juniors immediately. For all their own boredom, when they get their child's Junior certificate, they are thrilled. So I have hopes that we're just skipping a generation! To me, this is the first reason to join the Society. No matter how distant, these coming generations will have access to all their Mayflower lines.

Q: What is your favorite part of being

involved in the Society?

Midge: I love the genealogy. There is no better day than the one when I'm working with a potential member, and they make that find that links everything together -- the great big "ah-ha" moment.

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

Midge: I've been the state historian for a dozen or so years – so anyone who has joined in that time or helped a family member join – knows exactly what I do. I'm the first line in vetting new papers. Plymouth has ultimate approval rights, but we try to submit papers that can sail through the process. We don't always sail, but our approval rate is very high. We maybe have one rejection a year – and sometimes none.

Q: How did you get involved in genealogy?

Midge: As I said about, because of my mother. Having said that, I should also add that I probably wouldn't have begun if it weren't for someone else's work. I proved part of that work wrong, but that was what started the whole ball rolling on finding what was true.

What is the most frustrating part of your work?

Midge: On-line material that many take to be proof, but is nothing of the kind. While computers are irreplaceable today – and have advanced genealogy beyond anyone's wildest dreams – it's also spread incredible misinformation. Discerning "real" from "not" is the major challenge today.

Q: Have you ever had any particularly difficult cases to solve?

#### Midge: Yes. I'll let you know when I'm successful!

Q: Are there any states whose records are more difficult to find? Which states have the best record collections?

Midge: We are very fortunate that New England records tend to be very good – particularly CT and MA – both of which are among the best for older records. Contemporary records are all about the same – because state requirements and processes are very similar. However, that doesn't mean they are all as easy to access. Some states are trying to actually shut down access to records, and genealogical societies of all kinds fight this regularly.

Q: Have you ever had to work with records from other countries such as Canada or the UK? How do their records compare with US records?

Midge: I haven't had enough experience with this to comment. I've used a lot of English and a lot of Slovakian records in my personal research, but most of those have been accessed through the LDS church – through microfilm. I have done no direct, in person research outside of the U.S.

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

Midge: Helping members and potential members make connections that unfold their family history. And then having the younger generations engage.

New members introduced at the spring luncheon.





#### By Ellen Swayne

A number of autumns ago when our older daughter was about two years old, my brother-in-law joyfully took our family to see his pumpkin patch. That spring he had had tossed a handful of seeds onto the old manure pile of his family's farm, then forgot about them. A number of months later he happened to walk around the corner of the barn and was stunned - delighted, actually to see pumpkin vines and fruit everywhere. Our daughter, however, much to her uncle's disappointment, was not delighted at the sight. Instead, she froze and then burst into tears! The leaves were as tall as she was and the size of the fruits equally terrifying. In due course one of those large pumpkins arrived at our house for Halloween. She still would not go near, but with some hesitation would look

cautiously from the kitchen window at the carved pumpkin.

Those pumpkins, botanically speaking, were really large squash and classified as Cucurbita maxima. Hubbard squash is also in this group. Cousin to those are Cucurbita pepo which includes most other pumpkins, yellow squash, and zucchini. Pumpkins and squashes would have been familiar to the Pilgrims when they arrived on these shores in 1621. American in origin, "pompions" had been introduced to Europe in the 16th century. The Wampanoag were cultivating them when our ancestors arrived, growing them together as "the three sisters" of beans, corn and squash. Likewise, as a food crop pumpkins were relied upon by our Pilgrim ancestors during those early years and served as a "standing dish,"common everyday fare.

For pottage and puddings and custards and pies Our pumpkins and parsnips are common supplies, We have pumpkins at morning and pumpkins at noon, If it were not for pumpkins we should be undoon."

Pilgrim verse, circa 1633

At the next CT Mayflower meeting please stop by the Education Committee display table where we will be featuring pumpkins. No longer do we need to worry about cooking pompions, storing them or saving seed for the next crop, but we do enjoy them in our kitchens and beyond. Cinderella went to the ball in one! There will be a booklet of pumpkin recipes for you to take home and try.

Meanwhile, perhaps you might like to enjoy this recipe for standard daily fare:

"The Ancient New England New England Standing Dish" (from Giving Thanks)

Place 4 Cups of cooked and mashed pumpkin or other squash in a saucepan with 4 tablespoons butter, 1-2 tablespoons cider vinegar, 1-2 teaspoons ginger (or nutmeg, cloves or pepper), and 1 teaspoon salt. Stir and heat until all of the ingredients are well combined and hot. Serves 8.

We look forward to seeing you at the Education Committee Table at the October meeting.

References: Stavely, Keith and Fitzgerald, Kathleen. America's Founding Food. Chapel Hill:The University of North Carolina Press. 2004Curtin, Kathleen and Oliver, Sandra. New York: Clarkson Potter Publishers. 2005Marcoux, Paula. Plimoth Plantation 1627 Autumn Recipes. 2003.

#### We Have Scholarships!

Even though it is only fall as you read this, the holidays will be here and gone before you know it and if you have a high school senior, or know of one, now is the time to start thinking about scholarships. Two important facts to consider, the application must be received by March 1, 2014 to be eligible and junior affiliate members get special consideration.

- We award three scholarships annually of \$ 1,620 each.
- All three scholarships adhere to the same guidelines and deadlines.
- Any graduating high school senior who is a resident in Connecticut is eligible for these scholarships. One need **NOT** be a member of the Connecticut Mayflower Society. However, in awarding the Isham and Reig scholarships, special consideration will be given to applicants who are either a member or junior affiliate member of the Connecticut Mayflower Society or who is a child or grandchild of one of our members. These applicants need not be Connecticut residents.
- Academic achievement, extra-curricular involvement, and community service are considered in the review of each application.
- The completed application and all required documentation must be received by March 1st each year.
- Awards will be presented at the spring meeting of the Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Scholarship applications and instructions for The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Connecticut scholarship program and application for the Junior Affiliate program are available on our website: www.ctmayflower.org

#### Photos from the Spring Luncheon









#### **New Supplementary Applications Now Available**

Married Women and Children on the List of Eligible Pilgrims

The General Society has recently begun accepting applications through the female line and through the children who sailed on the *Mayflower!* This decision has expanded the list of eligible descendants to fifty-one, and is the first change to the list of eligible pilgrims since the Society began. The following list of wives and children is now included in the list of eligible *Mayflower* pilgrims. If you wish to make a supplementary application as a descendant for any of these recently added pilgrims, you can check out the Mayflower Society website or speak to our historian, Midge Hurtuk.

#### Married women:

Mary Norris (Mrs. Issac) Allerton
Elinor (Mrs. John) Billington
Mary (Mrs. William) Brewster
Mrs. James Chilton
Sarah (Mrs. Francis) Eaton
Mrs. Edward Fuller
Elizabeth Fisher (Mrs. Stephen) Hopkins
Joan Hurst Rogers (Mrs. John) Tilley
Susanna (Mrs. William) White (later Mrs. Edward Winslow)

#### Children:

Bartholemew Allerton (son, age 7) Mary Allerton (daughter, age 4) Remember Allerton (daughter, age 5) Francis Billington (son, age 14) Love Brewster (son, age 13) Mary Chilton (daughter, age 13) John Cooke (son, age 13) Samuel Eaton (son, age 1) Samuel Fuller (son, age 12) Constance Hopkins (daughter, age 14) Giles Hopkins (son, age 12) Richard More (servant, age 6) Priscilla (later Mrs. John Alden) Mullins (daughter, age 17) Joseph Rogers (son, age 17) Henry Samson (nephew, age 17) Elizabeth Tilley (daughter, age 13) Peregrine White (son, infant born aboard ship) Resolved White (son, age 5)

### Thanksgiving

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#### **Pictures to Color**



@Pushkin \* illustrationsOf.com/66846



## Thanksgiving Word Search

Try to find all of the Thanksgiving words hidden in the puzzle below. Remember, words can be diagonal, vertical, horizontal, frontward or backwards. The remaining letters, written in the order that they appear, will spell out a secret holiday message!

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Cornucopia
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                                                                Yams
   Fall
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www.funschool.com

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### ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 26, 2013 SOCIAL HOUR AT 11

#### LUNCHEON & MEETING AT NOON

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

| From Rt. 84: Exit 55 is Route 2 East.  |        |
|--|--------|
| FIUII N., OT, EAR OU IS NOUR 4 East.   |        |
| From Rt. 91: Exit 25N (Glastonbury Route 3 N). Follow signs for Route 2 East.  |        |
| <b>Traveling on Route 2 East</b> : Take Exit 8 (Hebron Ave.) Take a right at the bottom of the 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 a available upon request.  |        |
| ×  |        |
| DI BACE CHOOCE ONE BOD BACH AMMENDEE.  |        |
| PLEASE CHOOSE ONE FOR EACH ATTENDEE:   |        |
| Chicken Piccata Baked Stuffed Filet of Sole  |        |
| Roast Top Sirloin of Beef  |        |
| Children's Chicken Fingers Vegetarian Penne with spinach, chick p  | eas,   |
| Total \$ enclosed  |        |
| Dinners include: spring greens with feta and cranberries, mixed vegetables. roasted potatoes, roll butter, coffee, tea, decaf, and, for dessert, apple crisp. There is a cash bar. Non-alcoholic punch a complimentary cheese tray will be served during the social hour.  The price is \$26/person, \$12 for children's chicken fingers. Please send this completed form and payment (checks made to Mayflower Society of CT) by October 17, 2013, to Beverly Warner, | nd     |
| PO Box 232, Thompson, CT 06277. (The restaurant requires that reservations be made one week the event for their ordering and planning. Please make your reservations accordingly.)   | before |
| Name: New member?  |        |
| Address: Guest:  |        |
| Guest:           Phone:         Guest:   |        |

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