



Autumn Gratings

October 2011

Volume 31, Number 3

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

The Connecticut Society of *Mayflower* Descendants is fortunate to have a cadre of very capable and dedicated volunteers who manage the day-to-day activities of our Society. They are the glue that holds our Society together and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce some of them to you and to thank them for their efforts.

Midge Hurtuk is the Society's historian and as such, spends countless hours reviewing all of the lineage papers that are submitted for membership as well as helping many prospective members find that missing link that they may need to complete the process. She is a professional genealogist and a pro at what she does. The Society is lucky to have someone of her caliber and talent. Without a doubt she is the heart and soul of our Society. In addition to her work as historian, Midge also serves as deputy governor and her advice and counsel are always honest, insightful and to the point.

Dave Grant is your treasurer. In addition to meticulously maintaining the Society's

books and records, Dave also oversees our investment portfolio with the help of the finance committee. His books are audited annually by our auditor, Brian Bristol. It is a great satisfaction to me as governor to have someone as dedicated as Dave in charge of the Society's finances.



Governor Don Studley was elected Treasurer General at the Mayflower Society's 39th General Congress in September. Details on page 5.

Recording secretary duties are handled very ably by Deanna Anglovitch who records the proceedings of all of our general membership meetings as well as our quarterly Board of Assistant meetings.

Corresponding secretary Nola Johannes makes all of the arrangements for our quarterly Board of Assistant's meetings as well as interfacing with the General Society when needed.

Rev. Jean Knapp has served as elder for many years. She leads us in prayer at our membership meetings and does double duty as the accompanist on the keyboard as we sing our opening songs. Jean's *(cont'd on page 4)*

Committees 2011

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Sally D'Amato

Directory of Officers 2011

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You can pay your membership dues online using PayPal. Go to www.ctmayflower.org.

NEW MEMBERS APPROVED

WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS INTO OUR SOCIETY

Descendants of John Alden

Ryan Delano Sullivan, Storrs, CT
Alan Lester Wyatt, Aiken, SC

Descendant of William Brewster

Kelly Jeanne Kates Davis, Enfield, CT

Descendant of Peter Brown

Deborah Crane Strong, Goshen, CT

Descendant of Francis Cooke

John Walter Nigro, Litchfield, CT

Descendant of Stephen Hopkins

Kathleen Constantine, Waterford, CT

Descendants of John Howland

Meaghan Elizabeth Swarts, Ware, MA
Christopher Adam Mechler, Oxford, CT

Descendants of Richard Warren

Ashley Kimbark Walker, W. Hartford, CT
Kenneth Buckley Walker, Jr., W. Hartford,
CT

IN MEMORIAM

Gertrude O'Connell,
March 28, 2011

Ann Kostmayer Bradburn,
July 26, 2011

James R. Powers,
July 6, 2011

Florence E. Bates Wyland,
August 13, 2011

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

Governor's Message cont'd from page 1

comforting presence is appreciated by all.

Archivist Greg Thompson has recently completed the monumental task of overseeing the scanning of all the Society's lineage papers onto computer disks. This now allows our historian easier access to all of her files and allows for the preservation of our members' files for generations to come. Greg is always willing to do anything that is asked of him and is a great asset to the Society.

Mary Brown serves as deputy governor general and as such is a member, along with myself, of the General Society's board. She represents Connecticut in Plymouth and does a wonderful job representing our interests. She is never afraid to speak up and her energy and enthusiasm have not gone unnoticed throughout the Society.

In addition to her duties as DGG, Mary serves as our Juniors Committee chair. She and Ellen Swayne are in charge of the Education Committee and provide the wonderful and informative demonstrations at the semi-annual membership luncheons. Neither Ellen nor Mary is ever at a loss for ideas that they feel will be of interest to our younger cousins and we are lucky to have their creative talents. They have recently been joined by our newest board member, Donna Mangiafico, who is an enthusiastic addition to the education committee.

Joan Prentice does a superb job as our Membership Committee chair. In addition to sending out our annual dues notices, Joan also maintains our computerized database of members. Joan has volunteered her services to the Society for many years and we are very appreciative of her efforts.

Our Scholarship Committee chair is Lois Johnson. Lois and her committee carefully review all of the applications that we receive for the three scholarships that the Connecticut Society gives each year. In addition, Lois organizes the raffle that is held

at each luncheon meeting, the proceeds of which are added to our scholarship funds. Lois has also been invaluable in advising us of changes that we have made to our scholarship program.

The Society is lucky to have two outstanding journalists who produce this newsletter three times a year. Mary Agliardo and Elisabeth Edwards have greatly expanded the content of *The Gratings* with many interesting articles and a much-expanded junior section. It is not an easy job to put out an interesting and informative newsletter several times a year but Mary and Elisabeth manage to do it every time and for that we are truly grateful.

Our semi-annual membership meetings are organized by our program chair, Polly Gunther. We owe her a great deal of thanks for finding such interesting and varied programs. Another Society stalwart is our captain, Bill Lane, who presents and retires the colors at each meeting and who represents the Society throughout the year at events such as the Massing of the Colors. Also Bill's insight and quiet good humor are a welcome addition to every board meeting.

To each and everyone mentioned above, I would like to express my thanks and the collective thanks of the entire Society for your dedication and commitment to the Connecticut Society of *Mayflower* Descendants.

"Of all the emotions that stir the human heart, gratitude is perhaps the most difficult to express. It is so sacred a sentiment of the soul that when we attempt to express it, it is lost in the noise of human words." Author Unknown

Don Studley
Governor



As you probably read in the March edition of *The Mayflower Quarterly* (pages 21-22), CT's own Governor General, Don Studley, was selected by the GSMD Nominating Committee to serve as Treasurer General of the General Society of *Mayflower* Descendants. At the General Congress meeting on September 14th, Don was elected to this national position. He will continue to be our General Governor until a replacement can be found. We are sure you join us in thanking Don for his service to the CT Society, and wishing him well in his new, important position.

Photo of Marg and Don Studley courtesy of Deanna Anglovitch.



The CT delegation: Donna Mangiafico, Mary Wassung, Christine Burbank, Linda Lynch, Julia Post, Midge Hurtuk, Don Studley, Irene Donald, Ellen Swayne, Ruth Olsen, Deanna Anglovich, Linda Spencer, and Mary Brown. Greg Thompson was missing from that meeting.

Editor Elisabeth Edwards Interviews New Treasurer General Don Studley

Elisabeth: *Congratulations on your election to national office! Were you surprised when you were told you would be nominated?*

Don: I was surprised when Mary Brown suggested that I consider it. She thought that as a practicing C.P.A. I would be a natural for the position. Quite frankly, I was honored to be considered.

E: *What can you tell us about the process?*

D: The General Society has a nominating committee consisting of the three former Governors General and several other General officers. The nominating committee proposes a slate of candidates for the various national offices to serve for a term of three years until the next triennial Congress. The slate is presented at the triennial Congress in Plymouth but nominations can also be made from the floor. The delegates to Congress from each state then vote for each officer separately. While the office of Treasurer General was uncontested, most of the rest of the slate was contested as nominations were made from the floor. This added a little excitement to the voting. The new Governor General is Bruce MacGunnigle from Rhode Island. The new Assistant Governor General, Lea Filson, is from Louisiana. The Secretary General, Susan Roser, is from Canada and the Councilor General is from South Carolina. The three at-large members of the Executive Committee are from California, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. As you can see, the General officers are truly representative of our national, or should I say international, membership.

E: *What will your new duties be?*

D: My new duties involve keeping the books of the Society and preparing financial reports for the Executive Committee and the Board of Assistants. The annual budget of the General Society is approaching \$1 million and I have responsibility for overseeing the budget,

paying the bills, paying our employees (there are more than 20 full and part-timers) and collecting the Society's dues and other revenues. I will also assist the Finance Committee with their responsibilities and help the trustees who oversee the investment of our \$6 million endowment.

E: *Will you be giving up your office with the Connecticut Society? Also, will your membership remain with the Connecticut Society?*

D: While there is nothing that prevents me from continuing as Governor of the Connecticut Society while holding the Treasurer General office, I simply don't have the time to do justice to both positions so I anticipate relinquishing the Connecticut Society governorship in the near future. According to our by-laws I remain on the board of the Connecticut Society as long as I am a General Society officer so I plan on remaining an active member of the Connecticut board.

E: *Will your new position include travel?*

D: The only travel that my new position entails is frequent trips to Plymouth. The drive from my part of Connecticut to Plymouth is about three hours so the trip is manageable. The Executive Committee meets each March in Plymouth and each September prior to the Board of Assistants meeting.

E: *What are you most looking forward to in regard to your new position?*

D: I am looking forward to working closely with the other General Society officers and seeing if I can suggest any improvements to the current financial policies and procedures of the Society. I consider it an honor to be able to lend my expertise to the General Society and I look forward to the challenges that await me during the next three years.

Thanks, Don. We wish you the very best in this new venture.

Meet Our October Speaker

We hope you will be there to welcome her on October 29th.

OUR OCTOBER SPEAKER WILL BE RUTH SHAPLEIGH-BROWN, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CONNECTICUT GRAVESTONE NETWORK.

Ruth's interest in old graveyards started in the 1980's. It was then that she became president of the Shapleigh Family Association, (her Dad's lineage) based in Kittery, Maine, and was at that time introduced to the various small family graveyards found in such rural areas.

After she discovered the toppled stones of her ancestors hiding in shoulder high weeds, her opinion of these places quickly went from "on no, not this" to "this is disrespectful – let's clean it up!"

Her passion was fueled by the discovery a gravestone for Dependence Shapleigh, and she learned that Dependence was a man. Ruth knew the name Dependence but had always imagined it belonged to a female.

Suddenly she had questions: she wondered what he looked like; did he favor her grandfather? And she realized that not only was she kneeling where he had been buried 200 years before, but it was also a piece of ground where his wife and children stood mourning the loss of their father and husband. Dependence had now become a real and tangible person, not just a name in a book. As Ruth explains it, "It was like touching that gravestone made 200 plus years ago seem like yesterday – it bridged the time and brought the family history home."

She then embarked on a mission to have the family association start organizing

efforts to clean up these old graveyards, and give them back some appearance of respectability, which in turn would welcome other family members to come and visit in the future.

This adventure led Ruth's founding of the international organization, the Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS). She not only became a member, but a board member. In 1993, Ruth was conference chair when the event was held in New London, CT.



In 1994, Ruth and other Connecticut AGS members agreed to start a movement in Connecticut for the purpose of sharing and working toward preservation of Connecticut's old burying grounds and the study of carvers, artwork and local history; hence the Connecticut Gravestone Network was created.

Since that time Ruth has actively been working in Connecticut with the support of state archeologists Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni and Dr. David Poirier of the State Historic Preservation Commission to educate the general public on the concerns and history of old burying grounds around the state.

Through CGN she organizes an annual symposium and works with like organizations to support and produce similar educational programs. Ruth speaks at various historical societies and organizations around the state; sets up information tables at various historical events; and organizes and directs various tours, workshop and activity days for interested groups caring for old burying grounds.

Food and Cooking

This Is the First in a Series on Pilgrim Life by Elisabeth Edwards.

During the voyage of the *Mayflower* in 1620, the Pilgrims' diet would have consisted primarily of hard biscuits, salt pork, dried meats (including cow tongue), various pickled foods, oatmeal and other cereal grains, and fish. The primary beverage for everyone, including children, was beer. Wine may also have been consumed, as was aqua-vitae, a name for more potent alcohols such as brandy. The occasional juice from a lemon or other citrus was also taken in order to prevent scurvy. The Pilgrims believed (and rightly so) that water was often contaminated and made people sick. The brewing and fermenting processes killed most of the parasites that caused these diseases.

Once the Pilgrims had settled themselves in Plymouth, they slowly began to learn about other food sources. The Massachusetts Bay was full of fish, although the Pilgrims had poorly equipped themselves for fishing. There were clams, mussels and other shellfish that could be gathered, and the Bay was also full of lobster (a species entirely unknown to the Pilgrims). Waterfowl such as ducks and geese were hunted, as were wild turkeys and other birds, and even the occasional deer.

The Pilgrims had also brought seeds with them, to plant vegetable and herb gardens as they had had in England, as well as larger farm crops such as barley, peas, and wheat. While exploring Cape Cod, they managed to "borrow" large baskets full of Indian corn they had found buried in the ground on a hill they named Corn Hill. Through the assistance of their

Wampanoag neighbors such as "Squanto" (Tisquantum), the Pilgrims learned the Indian techniques for planting and growing corn (which involved manuring the ground with fish), and learned how to catch eel in the muddy riverbeds.

Each house had a prominent fire pit and chimney, where the women and girls did the majority if not the entirety of the cooking. Several recipe books from the period exist, each providing some interesting insights into cooking at the time. Perhaps the most famous of these is Gervase Markham's *The English Housewife*, first published in 1615. A recipe for cooking a young turkey or chicken reads:

"If you will boil chickens, young turkeys, peahens, or any house fowl daintily, you shall, after you have trimmed them, drawn them, trussed them, and washed them, fill their bellies as full of parsley as they can hold; then boil them with salt and water only till they be enough: then take a dish and put into it verjuice [the juice of sour crabapples] and butter, and salt, and when the butter is melted, take the parsley out of the chicken's bellies, and mince it very small, and put it to the verjuice and butter, and stir it well together; then lay in the chickens, and trim the dish with sippets [*fried or toasted slices of bread*], and so serve it forth."

For the roasting of venison [deer], another recipe instructs:

"After you have washed it, and cleansed all the blood from it, you shall stick it with cloves all over on the outside; and if it be lean you shall lard it either with mutton lard, or pork lard, but mutton is the best: then spit it [*put it on a spit that can be hand-rotated over the fire*] and roast it by a soaking fire [*a slow-roasting fire*], then

take vinegar, bread crumbs, and some of the gravy which comes from the venison, and boil them well in a dish; then season it with sugar, cinnamon, ginger and salt, and serve the venison forth upon the sauce when it is roasted enough.”

To make turkey gravy another recipe suggests:
 “Take fair water, and set it over the fire, then slice good store of onions and put into it, and also pepper and salt, and good store of the gravy that comes from the turkey, and boil them very well together:

then put to it a few fine crumbs of grated bread to thicken it; a very little sugar and some vinegar, and so serve it up with the turkey: or otherwise, take grated white bread and boil it in white wine till it be thick as a galantine [*a sauce made from blood*], and in the boiling put in good store of sugar and cinnamon, and then with a little turnsole [*a plant used to as red food coloring*] make it of a high murrey color, and so serve it in saucers with the turkey in the manner of a galantine.”

New Junior Affiliate Members

We are happy to welcome the following new junior affiliate members:

Fallon Hill

Benjamin Onofrio

Annabelle Strong

Abigail Strong

Avery Andrews

Crossword Puzzle

4
5

ACROSS:

- Name of ship that sailed to the New World in 1620 full of English settlers.
- Name given to Englishmen who settled in Massachusetts.
- An agreement written in 1620 by the people to govern themselves in the New World.

DOWN:

- The area where Provincetown is located. (The first landing place of the Pilgrims in the New World)
- A crop that the Native People showed the settlers how to plant.

ANSWERS: Mayflower, Pilgrims, Compact, Cape Cod, Corn



Pilgrim Word Find

A	V	E	R	L	W	Q	D	Z	T	Y
H	D	Y	N	H	O	L	L	A	N	D
W	P	I	L	G	R	I	M	S	R	P
I	S	L	Y	O	L	S	C	P	E	N
L	R	O	W	P	Q	A	S	E	W	O
F	R	W	H	T	I	E	N	E	O	W
Y	E	A	C	F	L	T	W	D	L	F
N	S	B	E	Y	M	H	I	W	F	J
P	L	Y	M	O	U	T	H	E	Y	O
J	X	O	T	E	C	N	S	L	A	S
E	R	D	V	X	R	B	P	L	M	C

Find the following words:

England

Plymouth

Holland

Speedwell

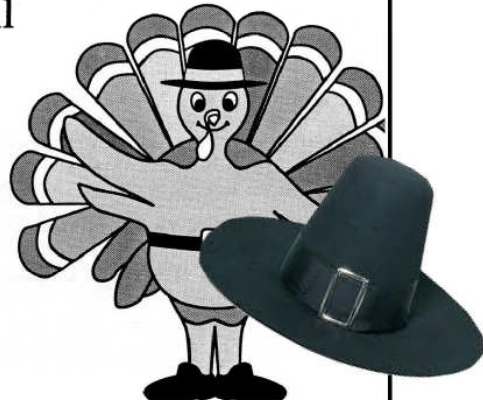
Mayflower

Tom-T

Myles

New World

Pilgrims



ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 29, 2011
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 Francaise**

_____ **Baked Stuffed Filet of Sole**

_____ **Roast Top Sirloin**

_____ **Children's Chicken Fingers**

_____ **Vegetarian**

_____ **Total \$ enclosed**

Dinners include: Tossed salad, hot mixed vegetables, roasted potatoes, rolls and butter, coffee, tea, decaf, and apple crisp. There is a cash bar. Non-alcoholic punch and 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 20, 2011, to Greg Thompson, PO 355, Branford, CT 06405-0355. (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: _____

Guest: _____

Phone: _____

Guest: _____

The Society of Mayflower Descendants
in the State of Connecticut
49 Hundred Acres Road
Newtown, CT 06470

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