

The Pennsylvania Mayflower

SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

EDITORS: **Stacy B.C. Wood, Jr.**
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BACK TO THE CORINTHIAN !!

This is our sixth Annual Membership Meeting at the Corinthian Yacht Club in Essington. Our meeting will be on Saturday, January 29th. The

business meeting, at which new officers will be elected, starts at 11 a.m. in the Large Porch; a social hour (cash bar) and lunch follow at 12:30 p.m., along with the presentation of our Kitty Little Award to Jill M. Hall, former head

of the Plimoth Plantation's Colonial Wardrobe Department (please see page 4 for details).

The initial concept of the Corinthian Yacht Club dates to 1876; the actual charter came in 1892. At one point it was home



The Corinthian Yacht Club is easy to find in Essington, right on the Delaware River.

Thanksgiving 2010

by Joan C. Miller

The Society of *Mayflower* Descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (SMDPA) held our annual worship service on Sunday, November 21, 2010, at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church, Douglassville.

We thank our SMDPA Elder, the Rev. Judith A. Meier, for a well-organized program and her guidance, "Call to Worship" and especially "Service of Remembrance." This annual service is to commemorate the first harvest



See more photos on page 3.

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port for boats from 100 to 279 feet in length that "cruised as far as Alaska, Africa, and the China Sea; won races; did service in this country's defense; and suffered, in the case of George Drexel's *Alcide*, torpedoing in World War One. The base of the mast of *Defiance*, owned by E.W. Clark, a contender for the America's Cup, remains today, part of it on the walkway to the Club pier, part of it on the driveway at the entrance, flying the Club's flag."

The Club is located in an historic area that was originally an island. You may notice the sign for

(Continued on next page)

ANNUAL MEETING

(Continued from page 1)

Governor Printz Park just before reaching the Club's driveway. This was the location of *Printzhof*, the home of Johan Printz, Governor of New Sweden. Settled in 1638 New Sweden



Johan Printz

extended north to present-day Trenton, NJ. In 1643 he moved the capital from Fort Christina (now Wilmington, DE) to New Sweden. Previously the land had been Dutch after Henry Hudson claimed the land in 1609 for the Netherlands. You may recall that Gloria Dei Church in South

Philadelphia (once a settlement called Wicaco or Weccacoe), where our society celebrated our memorial service for many years starting in 1933, was originally a Swedish church. In 1655 the Swedes were driven out of the area by Peter

Stuyvesant backed by six ships and 700 soldiers. In 1664 the British in turn routed the Dutch. The Printzhof site was declared a national Historic Landmark in 1961. Only the stone foundation remains.

Looking out at the Delaware River, you may see both cargo and cruise ships on their way to and from the port of Philadelphia to the north. Our host and Governor, Norman P. Robinson, is a past Commodore of the Corinthian and continues as Chairman of the Archives Committee and also the President of the Corinthian Historical Foundation. It will be good to be with him and his wife Susie at the Club as we celebrate the three years that he has served as our Governor, his final term ending at the annual meeting.

The Corinthian Yacht Club of Philadelphia is at East 2nd & Taylor Streets, Essington, PA 19029. There is free on-site parking. Please do not call the Club. Send your reservations and check (payable to SMDPA) to Deborah Markowitz, using the form on the back cover. A map and directions are provided there.

PM

Thanksgiving 2009

(Continued from page 1)

feast in Plymouth Colony and in memory of our *Mayflower* ancestors and members of the Society whose deaths were reported during the past year.

Our SMDPA Governor Norman Robinson read the Thanksgiving Proclamation and *The Mayflower Compact* to the congregation. He also invited attendees to stand as their Pilgrim ancestor(s)'s name(s) were called. Member Richard L. Mix, founder of The Billington Family Association, in authentic

Pilgrim apparel, stood for his ancestor John Billington.

Other SMDPA members participating in the service were Color Guard Captain Richard Dana Smith Sr. and Richard D. Smith, Jr.; Hilary Armstrong, Junior Membership Chair; Robert J. Heinsohn, Deputy Governor; Deborah A. Yingst, Treasurer; and Anne V.G. Hain, Registrar. Kevin and Tricia Dixon handled the traditional beating of the drums and marching.

We thank the church organist, James Matz, and Parish

Administrator Sally Heist for their assistance.

The Rev. Canon Calvin C. Adams, retired Rector, shared with the Congregation a most inspiring sermon. Although the Reverend Adams does not have any *Mayflower* ancestors, he certainly knew our history. He presented us with a challenge, as he asked: "What are we doing to keep the message alive;" "Are you keeping us informed about the purpose of your Pilgrim ancestors' voyage to the New World;" "Do you talk with us about religious freedom?"

Thanksgiving



Non-perishable foods for the needy were brought before the altar by several of our SMDPA members to be donated to Birdsboro Food Pantry at New Baptist Church in Birdsboro as well as the monetary offering collected. In addition, the parish also received the anonymously funded annual “Governor

Winchell Carroll Fund” check for \$1,000.

After the Church Service, sixty-three members and guests attended a very delicious and well-prepared turkey dinner at the French Creek Golf Club, Elverson, PA. The presentation of the John M. Hunt, Jr. Distinguished Pilgrim Award to

be given to our Immediate Past SMDPA Governor and long-time Community Relations Committee Chair, Winchell S. Carroll, was postponed until our Annual Meeting, January 29, 2011.



2011 Distinguished Mayflower Scholar

What Exactly Did the Pilgrims Wear?

Jill M. Hall is the 2011 recipient of the Katharine F. Little Distinguished Mayflower Scholarship Award. She joins a dozen previous recipients, many of whom have spent much of their lives debunking much of what has been conjured to represent our *Mayflower* ancestors.

Born in Providence, RI, she earned a BA in history from Yale. Her main interest was medieval history. Fresh out of college, Jill began working at the 1627 Plimoth Plantation as a “role player” in the village and aboard the *Mayflower II*. In late 1991 she transferred to the Plantation’s Colonial Wardrobe Department. It was there that she was to make her major contribution in debunking what has been in the “mind’s eye” of the public since the 19th century: what the Pilgrims really wore in Plymouth Colony. Over 20,000 Pennsylvania students have experienced her work through our sponsored Plimoth Plantation classroom visit program since 1999.

The only surviving piece of Pilgrim apparel is a beaver hat attributed to Constance Hopkins, a daughter of Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins. It is in the Pilgrim Hall Museum, the oldest continuous operating public museum in the United States (built in 1824). In its collection are a dozen or so large “history paintings” (See

<http://www.pilgrimhall.org/collects.htm>) representing mid-19th-century artists’ ideas of early 17th-century colonial dress. The collection also contains the only portrait of a Pilgrim; that of Edward Winslow painted in England in 1651. At the same time in England, portraits of Edward’s son Josiah and Josiah’s wife, Penelope Pelham Winslow, were painted. Unfortunately these are too late and in the wrong environment to indicate what Plymothians were wearing in the 1620s. Other artists of the 19th and early 20th centuries misrepresenting Pilgrim dress were Louis Comfort Tiffany, J. L. Ferris, Alfred Fredericks and George Boughton, the latter famous for his John and Priscilla Alden paintings. You can see these on www.alden.org. It wasn’t long before Jill realized that she had “a long-standing but latent interest in historical Costume.” She had not only seen the Smithsonian collection but also the Victoria and Albert Museum’s collection. She realized that skillful recreations could enhance the Plantation’s experience and learning opportunities. Upon the retirement in 1994 of her mentor Pat Baker, the Plantation’s wardrobe mistress, Jill was appointed that department’s manager and remained so until 2008. Her hobby is “heritage fiber arts” and quilting.

During those 20 years at the Plantation she mounted two major exhibits and a few smaller ones, clothed the Plantation role players for a number of films and TV programs (including that Gov. Bradford section of the memorable C-Span series on great American literature and as a consultant for the History Channel’s “Desperate Crossings”), contributed to

Personal Adornment #1

“Know first who you are; and then adorn yourself accordingly.”
... *Epictetus*

“Clothes are . . . the furniture of the mind made visible.”
... *James Laver*

“Our clothes are ... a part of us ... it is as though the fabric were indeed a natural extension of the body, or even of the soul.”
... *Quentin Bell*

“Adornment is ne’er anything except a reflection of the heart.”
... *Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel*

articles in three Scholastic Books about early Plymouth, the National Geographic's book *1620*, and the Plantation's annual *Plimoth Life* magazine. In the latter's 2007 issue she wrote "A Coat of Many Colors: Re-creating an Embroidered Jacket," reprinted in part below. Photos of the finished jacket appeared on the front and back covers of the

March 2010 *Mayflower Quarterly*. Jill will further enlighten us about Pilgrim apparel and the jacket.

Jill will be accompanied by her husband Michael who is also formerly with the Plantation and who worked with SMDPA on a free summer internship program at the Plantation for our youth that was shelved because our youth showed no interest.



Personal Adornment #2

by Jill Hall, Manager,
Colonial Wardrobe Department

In November 2006 Plimoth Plantation's Colonial Wardrobe Department began an ambitious project — to re-create a woman's embroidered linen jacket of the early 1600s



along with a similarly ambitious, newly constructed native turkey-feather mantle. The completed jacket was designed to form the

centerpiece of Plimoth Plantation's exhibit on personal adornment.

In the early 1600s England's privileged class displayed their wealth and position through elaborate, expensive clothes and accessories. Particularly spectacular outfits were recorded in portraits. During this period, linen jackets embroidered with colored silk and metal threads were the fashion for women of the upper class (those wealthier than the Plymouth colonists but below royalty or the aristocracy). These jackets were popular between circa 1590 and 1630. They appear in a number of portraits

and there are also several examples of the jackets in museum collections.

In Memoriam

As part of the Thanksgiving Service, Registrar Anne V.G. Hain read the names of members who died during 2010. The below list also includes those who have died since the service.

Burton H. Etherington, Jr.	Warren
Diana Madden, nee Dunning	Bradford
Seymour S. Rutherford, Jr.	Brewster
Hirda Marshall, nee Parks	Howland
Mrs Lena Fay Gooding, nee Cecil	Brewster
Geneva Horvath, nee Irish	Brewster
Arabella Duncanson, nee Adams	Warren
Robert L. McNeil Jr.	Brewster
Marian Elkinton, nee Dunham	Warren
Robert Olin Niles	Chilton
Virginia L. Roberts	Warren
Edward W. Cooch Jr.	Howland
Millicent Snyder	Howland
Virginia Persons, nee Littleton	Howland
Douglas M. Watson	Alden

Governor's Message

This will be my last message as governor of the Society of the *Mayflower* Descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and what an honor it has been for me to serve our Society in that capacity during the past three years. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your confidence and loyal support you have given me. Your trust along with the dedicated support of the Board of Assistants and its hard working committee chairmen is what I attribute any achievements to during my service as governor. I extend special thanks to the board as we have much to be proud of for the fine organization that SMDPA is.

What wonderful purposes and objects the *Mayflower* Society stands for! Standing up for the high ideals and standards that our Pilgrim forebears established in 1620 gives us pause to be grateful for the freedoms we share and benefit from today. As members of the *Mayflower* Society we need to practice in our daily lives what our SMDPA Constitution states:

Objects: To perpetuate the memory of our Mayflower Ancestors, and to preserve

their records, history and all facts relating to them, their ancestors and their posterity. To maintain and defend the principle of civil and religious liberty as set forth in the Compact of the Mayflower, "For the glorie of God, and advancement of the Christian faith and honor of ... our Countrie."

To cherish and maintain the ideals and institutions of American freedom, and to oppose any theories or actions that threaten their continuity.

The Rev. Canon Calvin C. Adams, Retired Rector at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church, in his sermon at our recent *Mayflower* Thanksgiving Service, brought to our attention as *Mayflower* descendants, the importance of our living up to those highest principles and ideals, "for the glorie of God," that were established during those first years in Plymouth. We need to remind ourselves that those principles and rules that were divinely inspired for those stalwart pioneers are as good and applicable today as they were in the 1620s. It is so easy to get caught up in our own personal "wants and woes" with all the unimportant distractions that can cause us to forget that part of the *Mayflower* Compact which says

...."do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and one of another, Covenant and Combine ourselves together into a Civil Body Politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of ends aforesaid"....

As we enter the new year 2011 let us be mindful of that spirit of cooperation in working with each other, and not get caught up with how well or not well the other guy is doing his task carrying out our work for the "civic body politic." I know that we have a lot going for the Society. We are all a well meaning group of enthusiastic volunteers. We have one of the best education programs going for us, and we need to keep expanding that activity. Please join me and let us all get behind the officers and Board of Assistants and give them the support so that 2011 will be another banner year.

Best regards to all of you for a prosperous and rewarding New Year,



Norman P. Robinson
Governor



Susquehanna Colony News

TOWARD THE END OF SEPTEMBER

we continued our tradition of gathering together with our Northern members in Lewisburg. We had a good turnout and encouraged all who could make it to come to our Fall meeting in Boiling Springs to hear the Plimoth Plantation re-enactors. We had a great meal and a good time of fellowship.

The schools in the Lancaster/York county area were host to two re-enactors from Plimoth Plantation. Chris Messier, who was sent to the Western Colony last year, was joined this year by Vicki Omen. As usual, they did a great job and were well received by the schools they visited. In fact some of them have already said they would like them back next year. I was able to sit in on a couple

of the sessions and I was just as captivated by them as the students were.

On October 25 we held our annual Fall colony meeting at the Allenberry Playhouse in Boiling Springs. There were about 25 people in attendance. After a fantastic buffet lunch, a brief business meeting was held to set the dates of next year's meetings. A couple of books donated by Joan Miller were raffled off as door prizes. Our guest speakers for the meeting were the two Plimoth Colony re-enactors, Chris Messier and Vicki Omen.

They portrayed the Pilgrim couple, Stephen and Elizabeth Hopkins. In character they described life in the colony during its first years.

Afterward they stepped out of



Plimoth Plantation re-enactors Vicki Omen and Chris Messier portray Elizabeth and Stephen Hopkins at the Susquehanna Colony's Fall meeting.

character and entertained general questions. Everyone had a great time.

Submitted by

James Buckner
Assistant Governor
Susquehanna Colony

PM

Welcome New Members

Congratulations to our newest members. Each is listed by name, ancestor-generation and membership category. A regular member is an annual member.

Lois Sherburn Bartlett	John Alden	11	Regular
Margery Pepiot	Richard Warren	10	Regular
Denise Georgantis Price	Myles Standish	14	Regular

Hymns, Odes Songs ...

... To Pilgrims The Mayflower

By Stacy B. C. Wood, Jr.

Over the years hymns, odes and songs have been composed about the Pilgrims and the *Mayflower*. This is an article about some of them.

On February 16, 1900, at the annual meeting of the SMDPA in Philadelphia, *The Pilgrims*, with words based on an earlier poem by Florence (Earle) Coates and music by Thomas Whitney Surette, was sung by the members and their guests. Its cover carries the copyright date of 1900. Florence Coates was a poet laureate of Pennsylvania and one of 21 Charter Members of SMDPA (#10). The composer was “of” Bryn Mawr College. I have not examined the minutes of subsequent annual meetings to see if there is an indication of how often and when it was last used. It is written in E-flat major in 4/2 time and the lyrics are:

The Pilgrims

(Played “with dignity but not too slowly”)

*Pilgrims of the trackless deep,
Leaving all, our fathers came,
Faith and liberty to keep
In Jehovah’s awful name.*

(More softly)

*Neither pillar’d flame nor cloud
Made the wild, for them rejoice,
But their hearts, with sorrow bowed,
In the darkness –
In the darkness
His voice.*

*Things above
them divined –
Thoughts of God, forever True,
And the deathless compact signed –
“Building better than they knew:”
Building liberty, not planned,
Law which ampler life controls,
All the greatness of our land
Lying shadowed –
Lying shadowed in their souls.
In the days that shall succeed,
Prouder boast no time shall grant
Than to be of them, indeed,
Children of their covenant:
Children of the promis’d day,
Bound by hope and memory.
Brave, devoted, wise as they,
Strong with love –
Strong with love’s humility.*

Currently songs are not usually sung at the annual meeting. An annual memorial service on the Sunday before Thanksgiving was begun in 1933 and hymns and songs are sung there. In 1955 we adopted the Allen Eastman Cross hymn, sung to “Duke Street,” “More Light Shall Break” (aka “The Mayflower Hymn”) because it ends with “The Mayflower still is sailing on.” Written in 1920 on the 300th anniversary of the Pilgrims’ voyage to America in the *Mayflower*, this hymn was first sung at the International Council of Congregational Churches in the Old South Church, Boston, Massachusetts. The words

come from Pastor John Robinson's farewell to the Pilgrims. We also often sing "America the Beautiful" because of the 2nd verse "O beautiful for pilgrim feet."

The February 1998 and June 2003 *Mayflower Quarterly* printed the "The *Mayflower* Song." It had been composed for the Second General Congress of our General Society that was held in Plymouth, MA, on September 15, 1900. The song was reprinted for the 1903 Congress. The lyrics are by Richard H. Greene of the New York state society and the music was written by gospel song composer W. Howard Doane, a member of the Ohio state society.

The earliest item found to date was an ode for a Plymouth anniversary of 1794 at the First Parish Church meeting house. It begins "Sons of renowned Sires." Additional hymns and odes were composed at least through the 1831 dedication of the new church building when they sang "Lo! The rising star of Freedom." Since both the meeting house and the 1831 wooden church were destroyed by fire, it is possible that the scores of the hymns and odes did not survive. They may have just been sung to the tunes of existing popular hymns. The lyrics of these and other pre-1835 hymns and odes are found in *History of The Town of Plymouth* by James Thacher, M.D. This very worthwhile 1835 book is still available as a 1991 reprint at Higginson Book Co., Salem, MA.

Another major source, with many scores, is the General *Mayflower* Society's 1999 *Centennial History 1897-1997* compiled by the late Duane A. Cline. More on these later. The book is available at gsmd.sales@verizon.net and highly recommended by this writer for a source of our General Society's past. The occasions of the marking many of the *Mayflower* and Pilgrim Historic Sites are included therein.

There has been at least one opera involving

the Pilgrims, and it is not covered here.

Continuing with the *Centennial History*, its Appendix, in addition to having "The *Mayflower* Compact," has the "Roll Call of Passengers & Wives" which is limited to those whose lines survive and thus is an authentic list to use when *Mayflower* Society descendants are asked to be "upstanding" at Compact Day or Thanksgiving Memorial Services. It also has the "Pilgrim Pledge," "The Elder's Prayer," "*Mayflower* Insignia Etiquette," and "The American's Creed." But the gold mine music-wise is Mr. Cline's fifteen pages of *Mayflower* and Pilgrim songs, all with their scores unless they use known tunes as their base.

Of course there are two well known patriotic songs that bring our Pilgrim ancestors to mind when we sing "O beautiful for Pilgrim feet ..." and "Land of the Pilgrim's pride ..." The hymns, odes and songs gathered so far are here listed by title with date of composition, first line, lyricist and composer or tune:

America (My Country 'Tis of Thee), Boston Children's Independence Day 1831, "My Country 'Tis of Thee," Samuel Francis Smith, God Save the King; *America the Beautiful*, 1910, "O beautiful for spacious skies," Katharine Lee Bates, Samuel A. Ward; *Anniversary Hymn [Pilgrim landing]*, 1834, "Lo where of old the Fathers dwelt," W. S., Russell, St. Martins; *Dorothy, My Dorothy*, Opera 1927, "Oh fair the day first we met," Henry Grattan Donnelly, Helen Merrill Choate; Hymn, pre 1835, "Wild was the day," W. C. Bryant, unknown; *Hymn for 22 December*, pre-1835, "Hail, Pilgrim fathers of our race!," Unknown, Old 100; *Hymn for 22 December*, 1806, "Our Fathers' God! To Thee we raise," Rev. Dr. Holmes, Old 100; *More Light Shall Break*, For International Council of Congregational Churches in 1900 on the 300th

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Anniversary of Pilgrim Landing, “More light shall break from out Thy Word,” Allen Eastman Cross, Duke Street; *Ode For Pilgrim Society Celebration*, Pilgrim Society Anniversary [Pilgrim Hall completed] 1824, “The Pilgrim Fathers – Where are They?,” Rev. J. Pierpont, unknown; *Ode For 22 December, 1794*, “Sons of renowned Sires,” Hon. John Davis, Unknown; *Original Hymn for 22 December, 1831*, “Lo! The rising star of Freedom,” Rev. S. Deane, Unknown; *Original Hymn for New 1st Parish Church Dedication, 1831*, “The winds and waves are roaring,” Rev. J. Pierpont, Unknown; *Our Mayflower – Thanksgiving Song, 1953*, “We’ll sing a song of the Mayflower,” Marie Rich Rockwood, Marie Rich Rockwood; *Our Mayflower Men*, For GSMD 14th Congress 1936, “Time is now come to speak our praise,” Lydia Hammond Gale, Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes; *Our Plymouth Ship*, For GSMD 14th Congress 1936, “Oh Plymouth Ship, dear Plymouth Ship,” Annie L. Sutton, America the Beautiful; *Saints and Strangers United, 2009*, “Our homes we left,” Dr. Charles S. Bryant, Dr. Charles S. Bryant; *The Breaking Waves Dashed High, 1824*, “The breaking waves dashed high,” Felicia D. Hemans, Mary Ann Browne; *The Mayflower Song*, GSMD Congress 1900, “When the little pilgrim band left their home and native land,” Richard H. Greene, W. Howard Doane; *The Pilgrims*, SMDPA Annual Meeting 1900, “Pilgrims of trackless deep,” Florence Earle

Coates, Thomas Whitney Surette; *Two Hundred Years Ago*, Plymouth Public Dinner 22 December 1820, “Come listen to my story,” Rev. Dr. Flint, Unknown; *We Have Faith in This Land*, GSMD Triennial Congress 1978, “Our Pilgrim fathers came to this Promis’d Land,” Mark Nichols, Mark Nichols.

In August 2009 I sent an e-mail to all State Society governors and editors and Pilgrim family association heads and editors asking the following: 1. Do you sing hymns/songs regularly at your meetings? 2. Do you use one or more of the songs in the *Centennial History* list? If so which and what meeting? 3. Do you have an original Mayflower/Pilgrim hymn/song? If so, who wrote it and when? With thanks to the following State Societies for their responses: AL, AZ, CO, GA, IA, LA, MA, MD, ND, RI, SC, SD, TX, a colony whose state was not identified, and the Soule Kindred. With the exception of Arizona that had once used *The Mayflower Song* written by Richard H. Greene and W. Howard Doane for the Congress in 1900, and Massachusetts having sung standard English harvest hymns on occasion such as “We gather together,” the answers were ‘no’ on all accounts with one exception: There is a very recent (2009) original composition by the South Carolina state society’s member and Surgeon Dr. Charles S. Bryan; *Saints and Strangers United*. Congratulations to Dr. Bryan!

PM

GO ELECTRONIC ! ! !

Want to receive *The Pennsylvania Mayflower* in “living color” by e-mail instead of by USPS? Try it, you’ll like it! Just send us an e-mail request to PAMAYFLOWER@SAIL1620.org with “PA Mayflower” on the subject line. By doing so you will save printing and postage fees that can then be directed to our educational programs.

COMING EVENT

Please save Saturday, May 14, 2011 as the date our Spring Tea will be held. Details to come in our next issue.

Slate Submitted For 2011

The Nominating Committee (Debra G. Miller, *Chairman*, Frederick T.J. Clement, Jr., Norman P. Robinson, Stacy B.C. Wood, Jr.) submits the following slate of officers and assistants to be considered for election at our Society's annual meeting on January 29, 2011 at The Corinthian Yacht Club, Essington.

Officers

Governor	Joan C. Miller
Deputy Governor	Deborah A. Yingst
Secretary	Layton H. Fireng*
Assistant Secretary	Colette Bailes
Treasurer	Deborah A. Yingst*
Assistant Treasurer	Dorothy Lees
Historian	Valerie Cullen*
Registrar	Robert J. Heinsohn, Ph.D.
Membership Officer	Kathleen Myers
Elder	James Buckner
Captain	Richard Dana Smith, Sr.*
Counselor	Thomas R. Kellogg, Esq.*

Assistants

Term Expiring January 2013	Verna Kratzenberg, Sally Jo Miller, Joann Michael
Term Expiring January 2014	Hilary Armstrong, Clara Deily, Lynn C. Wingert

* An asterisk signifies an incumbent.

Any additional nominations may be delivered to the Secretary (Layton H. Fireng, 5 Marlyn Circle, Wayne, PA 19087-3217; e-mail LFireng@sail1620.org) at least one week prior to the meeting in accordance with the bylaws, Article IV, Section 2.

“THANKSGIVING”

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SI FINISHED READING THIS BOOK, I SAT AWED, STUNNED AND SADDENED, ALL AT THE SAME TIME.

THIS BOOK WAS TRULY OVERWHELMING IN ITS SCOPE AND DEPTH OF WHAT OUR FOREFATHERS HAD UNDERGONE AND ENDURED FOR

their beliefs. And also to realize that the determination of so few created our nation as it is today even with its faults and warts, so to speak.

Mr. Cheney has written a very readable, well researched book. It is obvious that he had a great deal of persistence in searching out and separating what was perhaps myth and legend that surrounds the *Mayflower* pilgrims and Thanksgiving. He is to be commended in that endeavor.

The chapter titled “Tabuttantam” is an excellent chapter on what the first Thanksgiving might have been like. As there is no written account of what actually took place, Mr. Cheney draws a very vivid picture of a day that came to be one of our national holidays. For example, Mrs. Hopkins, Mrs. Winslow, Mrs. Billington and Mrs. Brewster along with 7 teen-aged girls cooked and served 140 people, ninety who were “guests” It was a three day event and just reading what was probably served makes one’s mouth water. It is so vivid that it is not hard to picture the days and joys of it all.

Thanksgiving, The Pilgrims’ First Year in America, published by New London Librarium, New London, CT, 2007

Thanksgiving is a book not in the style of *Mayflower - A Story of Courage, Community, and War* by Nathaniel Philbrick and *Making Haste From Babylon* by Nick Bunker, both that go into great detail from the far past and give one a great perspective and history, but Cheney’s book does not disappoint. As I said, it is quite readable and has a smooth flow to it.

***Thanksgiving: The Pilgrims’
First Year in America***
by Glenn Alan Cheney

Book Review by Elaine S. Laubach

Mr. Cheney writes so well that I felt the cold, the wet and the pure misery of the Pilgrims as well as the sadness and sorrow of the deaths of loved ones. Plan to read this book. It can be purchased on Amazon and might even be available in your local library.

Take the time to read the prelude to this book. It is full of information too and will be helpful to the reader.

I have been asked to review another book by James Baker entitled *Thanksgiving - The Biography Of An American Holiday* but did not have the time to ready a review at this time. I can tell you, gentle reader, that the chapter headings in Baker’s book are intriguing, such as the chapter heading *Pilgrims Are for Kids — Thanksgiving in the Progressive Classroom* so I will be sure to do a review on this for you.

PM



Betty Persons



Virginia Elizabeth Persons, known to all as “Betty,” our society's 2005 Most Distinguished Pilgrim Award winner and long-time board member and Social Events Committee chair, died November 27, 2010.

Often hosting social events with her sister Helen Anne White, Betty guided SMDPA to many historic sites including “Waynes- borough,” the Paoli family mansion of Revolutionary War General “Mad Anthony” Wayne. A board member of Waynesborough, Betty helped establish the Georgian structure as a house museum in 1980. Our society went on to meet there three more times.

Known for her adept organizational skills, Betty chaired the Social Events Committee from 1995 to 2004, served on the Nominating Committee from 1997 - 2004, and was chair in 2000. Betty also was elected Elder in 1998. In 2005 she was awarded the Most Distinguished Pilgrim Award “for the gracious example she set, for the abundant goodwill she spread, as Elder, Board Member and Social Events Chair, and for the superlative contribution she made to the Society's entertainment, enlightenment and sense of well-being.”

A John Howland descendant, Betty

joined SMDPA in 1961 and was elected to the Board of Assistants in 1994. She was active in many other organizations, including the Tri Delta Sorority at the University of Pennsylvania, whose members support the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; president of the Garden Club of Bala Cynwyd and master flower show judge of the National Council of State Garden Clubs; president of the Women's Committee of the Historical Society of York County; president of the Conestoga Chapter of Questers; member of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America and vice regent of the Great Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She served as a guide at Philadelphia's Fairmount Park Houses and instituted their Christmas Tour.

Her husband, Oren H. Persons, Jr., who predeceased her, also was a society member. Daughter Anne P. Robinson also predeceased her. She is survived by a daughter, Alice P. Bangs, and a son, Owen H. Persons III, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers are with them, and we thank them for sharing Betty with us. Her smile always lit up the room.

PM

EDITOR NEEDED

Want to work with the editors of this newsletter? Do you have a knack for writing? A knack for collecting good, current stories about the Pilgrims and the *Mayflower*? Do you have a reporter’s instincts? Please let us know. The requirements are pretty basic: Access to the internet and good writing skills. We can teach you the rest. Please contact Stacy B.C. Wood, Jr. at sbcwjr@comcast.net.

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The Cook's Corner

Eggnog Pie

Try this for the holidays

How to Cook

Soften for five minutes 1 T gelatin in 2 T cold water

Scald in top of double boiler: 2 C light cream

Beat well 3 egg yolks

Add 1/2 t salt
1/3 C sugar

Beat until lemon-colored and foamy,

Add a small amount of scalded cream to egg mixture to temper, then add egg mixture to cream.

Return to double boiler and cook over hot water until mixture coats a silver spoon (7-10 min.). Remove from heat.

Add 1-1/2 t vanilla
1/2 t almond extract

Add gelatin, blend well, chill until slightly thickened.

Beat until stiff 3 egg whites

Add gradually 1/3 C sugar

Beat until sugar is thoroughly blended.

Fold the egg white mixture into the

gelatin mixture.

Add 1/2 C almonds, slivered and
toasted, 4 maraschino
cherries, cut in pieces

Blend well

Pour filling into baked 9-inch pie shell.

Garnish with maraschino cherry poinsettias and citron leaves. Chill until ready to serve.

This pie can be made the day before.



Eggnog — not just for drinking anymore . . .

Cooking Quote

“A pessimist is someone who looks at the land of milk and honey and sees only calories and cholesterol.”

— *Anonymous*

*The cook: DAVID H. HUNT, JR.
epicure extraordinaire*

JUNIOR PA MAYFLOWER

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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WWW.SAIL1620.ORG

WINTER 2010

DEGORY PRIEST, HATTER - OR, WHAT'S IN A NAME?

*Degory, Degory Priest –
He died and missed the feast.
With no male heir,
His name is rare.
Poor Degory, Degory Priest*

Yes, Degory did not attend the “first Thanksgiving” in 1621 because he died within months of the arrival of the *Mayflower* in Plymouth, New England, in the “great sickness” that took the lives of 31 of the 53 men who had been passengers.

Degory was about 40 years old and had made the voyage without his wife Sarah and two children, daughters Mary and Sarah. As you may know, because the ship *Speedwell* that was to accompany the *Mayflower* had to be left behind due to it having developed non-repairable leaks, many of the families and family members were left behind to await a future crossing. Degory’s wife and children were among them and they did not come over until she had remarried and accompanied her new husband hat maker Godbert Godbertson on the *Anne* in 1623.

Degory’s name is also recorded as Digory, Diggore Pryst, and Digerie. Words were normally spelled according to how they sounded to the writer and the writer often spelled the same word in different ways. Governor William Bradford’s history of *Plymouth Plantation* is an example. Although an English language dictionary had been published as early as the 1580s, it wasn’t until Samuel Johnson published his in 1755 that users began to accept one spelling for a word. The first year of the Oxford English Dictionary was 1928. Of course even today the way Americans spell some words is not the same as they are spelled in England! An example is tire and tyre.

If you are a fan of the “Chronicles of Narnia” then you are aware of the major character Digory Kirke. Regardless of how you spell it, the name Degory is very rare. In the 31 pages of the Index of Persons in the Mayflower Society’s 5 generation publication for

Degory Priest listing about 3,200 individuals not one chose to name a child Degory or one of its alternative spellings! There was a famous English historian Degory Wheare (1573-1647). Only three of our current PA Society members out of 760 members have proven descent from Degory Priest. A recent study of US phone books revealed only 12 listings of the first name Degory and 4 were in TX, 3 in MA, and 1 each in FL, GA, MO, NM, and TN. Caution: Before you think of naming a child Degory remember how some names just seem to beg being made fun of.

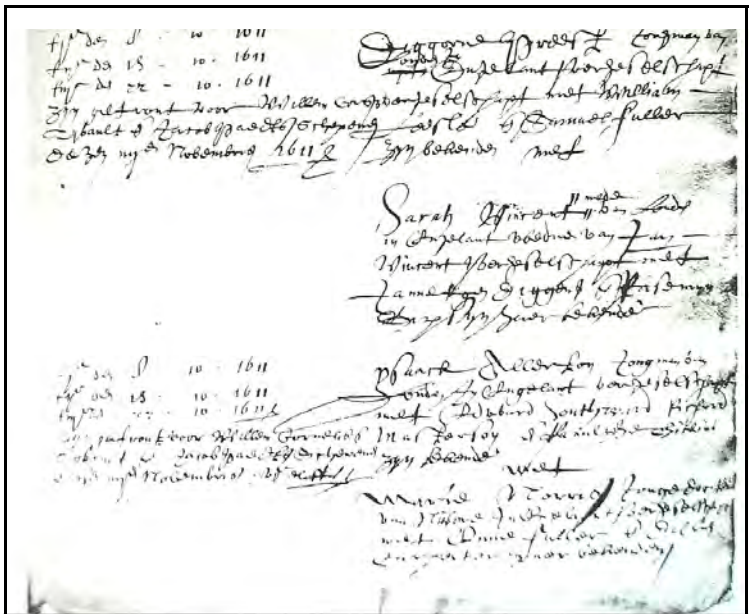


The Hat Makers
etching by J. J. van Vliet
Courtesy of
Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs, PhD

Consider that there was an old radio show “The Life of Riley” in the 1940s with a character Digby O’Dell who was called “Digger O’Dell the friendly undertaker”!

Degory’s birth place is unknown. A Digorius Prust was baptized in Harland, Devonshire, England in 1582 but historians believe that it is unlikely that a Separatist would have been from there. The

age difference could be a problem too. Degory Priest had fled to Holland and ended up in Leiden by 1611 when he married Sarah Vincent, a widowed sister of Pilgrim Isaac Allerton. He became a citizen of Leiden in November 1615 and his name appears numerous times in the Leiden town records there as a hat maker. He seems to have been a popular witness to affidavits. His signature was a mark indicating that he was probably illiterate. There is no known will or estate inventory. Of course the only portrait or image of a Pilgrim is that of Edward Winslow that hangs in Pilgrim Hall.



Copy of the page of the official Leiden, Holland, record of the marriages of Degory Priest to Sarah Vincent and Isaac Allerton to Mary Norris. Courtesy of Jeremy Dupertuis. Bangs, PhD



Leiden Town Hall - Built 1595 (Facade) & 1929
 Because the Pilgrim Separatists did not believe marriage to be a religious rite, they were married in this 16th century Town Hall that still is the seat of government. Fire destroyed the area behind the facade in 1929.

DEGORY PRIEST FACTOIDS

1. Degory was a signer of the “Mayflower Compact.”
2. With the exception of Bradford’s list of *Mayflower* passengers, Degory is not mentioned in the two early “prime sources” Bradford’s *Of Plymouth Plantation* or *Mourt’s Relation*.
3. Degory has at least one memorial in Plymouth. His name is included on the Sarcophagus on Cole’s Hill which may contain some of his bones along with others who died during the first winter.
4. Godbert Godbertson who came on the 1623 *Anne* and who had married Degory’s widow Sarah Allerton, in the 1623 land division, in addition to his own 2 acres, received 4 acres that would have been assigned to Degory had he lived, Sarah, and their two daughters. This land was “on the other side [i.e. south] of the town towards the Eel River.” Pilgrim Richard Warren also had land in this area and today’s living history museum, the 1627 Plimoth Plantation (www.plimoth.org), is on the north bank of Eel River.
5. The source for Degory and Sarah Allerton Priest’s descendants is *Mayflower Families Through Five Generation: Descendants of the Pilgrims Who Landed at Plymouth, Mass., December 1620, Volume Eight, Second Edition - Family of Degory Priest*. See: <http://www.themayflowersociety.com/book.htm>.

DOES ANYONE HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL?

Your editor is always looking for stories or artwork about the Pilgrims, their Native American friends, famous descendants and our own members. You may contact the editor at the address listed below.



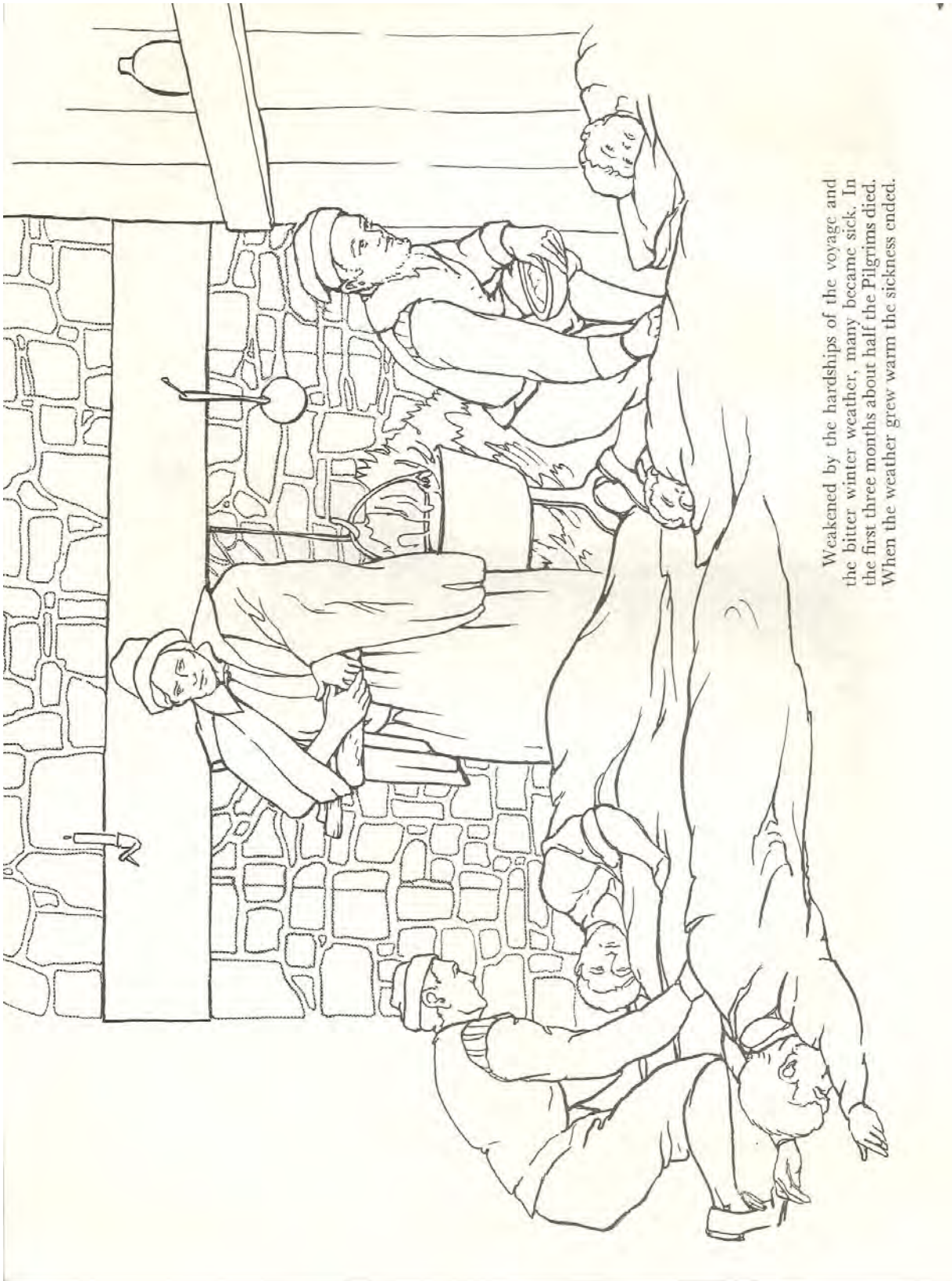
THE PILGRIMS WOULD NOT HAVE SAID “Happy Holidays” in any language because they did not recognize religious holidays but if you were in Leiden, Holland, during this season you could say “Gelukkige valanties!”

ANSWER TO THE GOV. WILLIAM BRADFORD CRYPTOGAM: “On the day called Christmas Day, the Governor called them out to work as was used. But the most of this new company excused themselves and said it went against their consciences to work on that day.”

Any comments or suggested topics for the feature articles of this newsletter? Perhaps an article for consideration? If so, please contact Stacy B. C. Wood, Jr., Editor, “JR PA Mayflower,” 1530 South Juniper Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147-6218 or by e-mail at sbcwjr@comcast.net.

“THE GREAT SICKNESS” - A PAGE TO COLOR

Which do you think might be sick Pilgrim Degory Priest among this group? Color his coat green. That may be Pilgrim William Brewster’s wife Mary standing in front of the fire place. She did not get sick. That also may be John Howland kneeling at the left and teenager Henry Samson kneeling at the right.



From *The Pilgrim Story* = A picture book For Coloring, Drawings by Charles H. Overly Courtesy of Plimoth Plantation.

Annual Meeting
The Corinthian Yacht Club
Saturday, January 29, 2011

11:00 AM Business Meeting

Immediately to follow Social Hour, cash bar

12:30 PM Luncheon speaker: Jill M. Hall, former manager of Plimoth Plantation Colonial Wardrobe Department, and author.

PROXY

The undersigned hereby appoint(s) Thomas H. Kellogg, Esq. and/or Norman P. Robinson (and each or any of them) the true and lawful attorney, attorneys, proxy or proxies to attend the meeting of the Society to be held as stated above, and any adjournments thereof, and to vote on matters set forth in the notice of the meeting on behalf of the undersigned, hereby confirming all that said attorneys and proxies may do by virtue hereof.

Signature of Member(s)

Reservation Form

SMDPA Annual Meeting and Luncheon, 2011

Where: *The Corinthian Yacht Club, 2nd & Taylor Streets, Essington, PA 19029*
Telephone 610-521-4705

When: Saturday, January 29, 2011; meeting at 11:00 AM, luncheon to follow, about 12:30 PM

Menu: *Butternut squash bisque, rolls & butter, chicken salad and fried oyster over greens (a popular Philadelphia dish), warm apple cobbler with vanilla ice cream, coffee, decaf, tea. Children's entree: hamburger with fries.*

I/We Reserve _____ adult place(s) and _____ child place(s) at The Corinthian Yacht Club for luncheon at \$25 per adult and \$12 for age 15 and younger.

Name(s) _____

Telephone number(s) _____ **Email address (important!)** _____

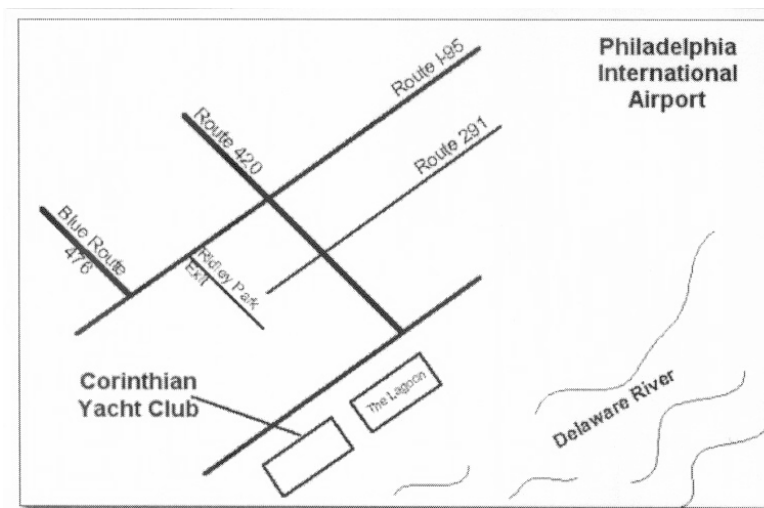
Amount enclosed _____ (check payable to "SMDPA")

Please reply by **January 19, 2011** to *Deborah Markowitz, Co-Chair, Social Events Committee*
355 Devon Way
West Chester, PA 19380-6628
Tel. 610-430-6166

The Corinthian Yacht Club

300 West 2nd Street
Essington, PA 19029
(610) 521-4705

The Corinthian Yacht Club is located south of the Philadelphia International Airport on the Delaware River bank in Essington, PA. From I-95 follow PA 420 toward the river. Turn right at the dead end. The Club's gate marked "CYC" is about 200 yards on the left.



Society of Mayflower Descendants

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