

Pilgr Pr

Mayflower
descendants
(and FV residents)
will ride on Society's
2020 Rose Float
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MADISON
GROGAN,
18, of Fountain
Valley, is a
descendant of
John Alden and
Priscilla Mullins
of The Mayflower



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**TONY
BREWSTER**
of Fountain
Valley, is a direct
descendant of
Elder William
Brewster of The
Mayflower

Portrait by **LYNN SEEDEN / Seeden Photography**



MADISON GROGAN



Madison Grogan, top, is a descendant of Mayflower crew member John Alden, depicted in a vintage postcard with his wife Priscilla Mullins. Alden was the ship's "cooper," responsible for making wood barrels aboard the Mayflower.

Pilgrim

Two Fountain Valley residents—both descendants of Pilgrims—will be passengers on the Mayflower Society float during the 2020 Rose Parade.

By CURT SEEDEN / FOUNTAIN VALLEY
Portraits by LYNN SEEDEN

Tony Brewster and Madison Grogan use words like "upstanding," "democracy" and "fighting for freedom" when they talk about their ancestors.

Brewster retired after 35 years working for IBM. Grogan is an 18-year-old Fountain Valley High School senior.

They share two things in common: Both are Fountain Valley residents, and both are descendants of Pilgrims who came to the new world aboard the Mayflower.

Four hundred years ago, Elder William Brewster and John Alden were among the passengers who set sail from England on the Mayflower and arrived at Plymouth Rock 66 days later.

Tony Brewster is a 12th-generation ancestor of William Brewster and a member of the Orange County Mayflower Society. Grogan is an ancestor of Alden, who was a "cooper"—the person in charge of the ship's barrels—on the Mayflower.

On Jan. 1, Brewster and Grogan will be among those on a float named "Voyage of Hope," commemorating the Mayflower voyage to the new world 400 years ago as it travels down Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena during the 2020 Rose Parade.

"I'm honored to have been selected by the California Mayflower Society to represent my nine-times-great-grandparents and my direct line of Brewster ancestors as I join other descendants to ride on the float in the Rose Parade," Tony said.

Brewster will be wearing a replica Pilgrim outfit and be among 17 members of the Mayflower Society riding on the float during the three-hour parade.

"My aunt Terry Brewster created my historically correct Pilgrim costume," Tony said. "The eggplant color of the clothing pays tribute to my great-grandfather, Elder William Brewster, who had a purple jacket listed in his personal inventory."

Grogan, a descendant of John and Priscilla (Mullins) Alden, and a junior member of the Mayflower Society, will also be on the float after she took first place in the Mayflower Society's float design and essay competition.

Madison, 18, the daughter Richard and Michelle Grogan, pretty much summed up her passion for the Mayflower in the opening of her winning essay.

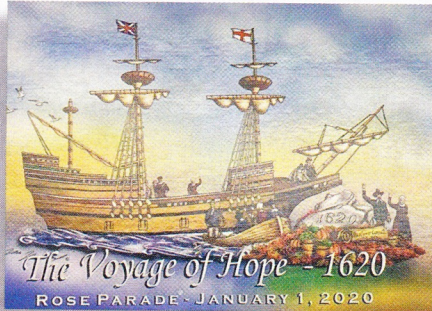
She wrote: "The Mayflower is the vessel that carried my family across a boundless ocean, away from oppression and into the arms of freedom. The Mayflower is the ship that brought 102 courageous hearts through winds and rain, delivering them to an unknown world that became their home. And the Mayflower is the beginning of an age of democracy."

"My grandma does genealogy and she traced our family," Madison said, noting

's Pride

endants of passengers on the Mayflower—
ociety's Rose Float Jan. 1 in Pasadena

ountain Valley Living
/ Seeden Photography



Madison and Tony will be riding the Mayflower Society's Rose Float Jan. 1. Madison's entry was the winning design for the float.

that her grandmother is also active with the Daughters of the American Revolution and other historical societies.

Madison joined the Mayflower Society two years ago and occasionally attends Society meetings. But after winning the essay contest and the float design contest, she admits there has been more pressure to attend more meetings and events.

"Now, when I go to the meetings, everyone knows me," she said. "To be in the Rose Parade is a big deal!"

Brewster, albeit much older than Madison, is also a Fountain Valley High School graduate. He and his wife, Terri, are longtime Fountain Valley residents.

"With great pride, I have the opportunity to honor my Brewster descendants who were all upstanding men and women in their communities," Tony said. "Individuals who built churches, built towns, fought for freedom by serving in government and the military. In addition to honoring my Brewster heritage, I represent all of the hearty individuals who made the decision to build a better life for their families by taking the heroic trip to the new world."

Madison has equal admiration for her ancestors and the Pilgrims.

In her winning essay, she noted: "Democracy and republicanism are ideals that I have been taught to honor and respect. When I think of American freedom, I am always drawn to the story of the Pilgrims. They could have chosen to elect a dictatorial leader, but had the foresight to recognize that they were starting something new in America."

She said it was important to include in her float design the ship's barrels, which were the responsibility of her ancestor, John Alden. Additionally, she incorporated the Mayflower Compact, the first governing document of Plymouth Colony, into the float design.

Incidentally, Madison is also related to the signers of the Magna Carta 400 years earlier than the Mayflower voyage.

But that's another story . . .



Tony Brewster, top, is a 12th-generation descendant of William Brewster, a passenger on The Mayflower. Brewster was a signer of The Mayflower Compact, which was the first governing document of the Plymouth Colony. Brewster was the senior elder and spiritual leader of the Plymouth colony.

Painting by Jeannie Augusta Brownscombe, 1914