

# California Mayflower Quarterly

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### The Mayflower Flag

The union of the two crosses was called the "King's Colors," or "Union Page 16-8-colors," and the first permanent settlements in this country were made under its protection.

It was the flag of the Mayflower in 1620.

Photo Credit: Ray Raser

#### Governor's Message

As we approach the end of another remarkable year, it is with immense gratitude and pride that we reflect on the journey we've shared as part of the California Society of Mayflower Descendants. This year has been filled with challenges, triumphs, and special moments that have shaped us into a stronger society.



Governor Kathy Watson

As we look back on the achievements of the past year, let us celebrate the dedication and hard work of each Colony. Your passion, creativity, and perseverance have been the driving force behind your success. Each Colony has pursued interesting programs to draw meeting attendance and stay connected to members. Compact Day celebrations happened for each Colony providing the opportunity to recognize the challenges experienced by our ancestors to survive in their new home.

At the October Board of Assistants, it was necessary to assess the impact of the General Society's application fee increase to the California Societies fee structure. Good news! The increase could be absorbed by submitting all applications electronically, which eliminates paper, ink, and postage costs. Only the Silver Supplemental fee was increased to align with the GSMD Silver Supplemental fee (a \$20 increase) beginning January 1.

We ask that each Colony's officers follow up with members to pay their dues. Come February 1, all members who have not

paid will be dropped. This saves the State Society money as we will not be paying the annual GSMD membership for those members who do not pay for 2024. The Society used to drop members who had not paid in December having already paid the GSMD fee for that year.

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, this issue of the Quarterly will focus on the history of each Colony. Editors Gail and Ray asked each Colony to submit an article highlighting its history. Please enjoy this special issue!

Thank you for your continued interest and commitment to the California Society. Together, we have not just weathered the GSMD application fee increase; we have set sail toward new horizons by forming the Decision 2025 Library Committee. You will hear their first report at the January Board of Assistants meeting.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season and a new year filled with prosperity, good health, and continued success.

Kathy Watson Governor



#### **Deputy Governor North**

I hope that you all enjoyed your colony's Compact Day meeting and had a very Happy 2023 Holiday season. 2024 is promising to be a good year for our Society and I look forward to meeting many of my Norcal Mayflower cousins at your 2024 colony meetings.

Our Executive Board is committed to being fiscally responsible, and our Governor has created a new committee to analyze the cost-effectiveness of our Society's Library in Oakland and to



Diane Douglass

recommend any changes to meet this goal. I am chairing this committee, Decision 25, and wish to thank the Society members who have agreed to serve on this committee and provide their knowledge and expertise: Nancy Lucchese (Office Manager), Dianne Sweeney (Librarian), Marston Watson (Genealogist), and Dianna Saario (Fiscal Expert).

Since the advent of the internet and in particular, the digitization of books, manuscripts, magazines, etc and the many websites dedicated to genealogical research like familysearch.org, most of our Society members do research online from home. Our CA Society Historian and the Assistant Historians also do all their research, application preparation, and application submissions to Plymouth online and at home. Subsequently, visitations to our library in Oakland have dropped off dramatically. Over the past year, we have had less than 1 visitor per month. As rents and insurance/utility costs increase, fiscal

responsibility requires that we look with objectivity at the costs and benefits of our library.

Our rental lease agreement with the landlord expires in 2027 and, per our current lease, we must notify the landlord of our intent in 2025. Our options are to renew the lease at our current location with its costs and low attendance or move in some form to another location. Many move options are being considered – a new library and office location on our own, a new library and office location partnering with another genealogical society, a new library and office location partnering with a public library, and even a small State Society office with storage space for our unique and historically important library items.

Our committee will be regularly reporting back to the Executive Committee and the BOA. Also, we are very open to member comments, concerns, and suggestions. Please feel free to contact me at deputygovernornorth@camayflower.org with any input you may have.

Our next in-person BOA meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 16, 2024 and I am excited to announce that we will be meeting in San Jose, near the San Jose airport (with free shuttle service to/from the airport). For those of you driving, the location is easily accessed by freeways and onsite parking is provided. I think you will find San Jose a convenient and safe venue. I look forward to seeing many of our colony Governors and/or delegates online later this month and again in March, face to face in San Jose.

Diane Douglass Deputy Governor North

#### **Deputy Governor South**

For the second year in a row, I attended the Seaside Highland Games on October 14 and 15 in Ventura and worked at our California Society of Mayflower Descendants table. The Seaside Games are a celebration of Scottish traditions. Also volunteering at the table were Foothill

Governor Carole Curran, LA Colony Assistant Governor Jan Dougall, LA Colony Elder Cynthia Svezia Carver, and Past LA Colony Governor Cal Cahoon. Carole, Jan, and I wore our Pilgrim attire which I think helped attract attention to our table. Many Games attendees are interested in their heritage. On each day we collected contact information for about fifteen possible Society of Mayflower Descendants applicants and answered questions for many others. Some seemed very interested in joining and had a good idea of their Mayflower passenger lineage. The collected information was passed to CA Historian Mandy Dunkle and hopefully some new members result. Special thanks to LA Colony Captain Kimberlee Bradford, who in her role as Director of Public Relations for the Seaside Highland Games helped arrange for the Mayflower Descendants table. Kimberlee is also President of the



LA Colony Assistant Gov. Jan Dougall and CA Society Deputy Gov. South Dr. Robert Lincoln at the Seaside Highland Games.

St. Andrews Society of Los Angeles which is a sponsor of the Games.

We all hope that our interest in remembering our Mayflower passenger ancestors will be shared by our sons, daughters, nieces, and nephews. They all are very busy with schooling, careers, relationships, and so many things in a young person's life. But I encourage you to continue in small ways to keep them aware of their ancestry especially their Mayflower lineages. Don't expect large time commitments now but every small exposure builds a foundation for later. My daughter, Danielle, attended the Los Angeles Colony Compact Day luncheon at the Tam O'Shanter. This was her first colony meeting. She enjoyed the presentation by author Donna Watkins which turned out to be a good first one for her to hear since it included a general coverage of the events leading up to the Mayflower voyage. The next day, Danielle and I texted back and forth about some questions Danielle had about the presentation. My son, Bobby and his fiancé, Jessie, attended one day of the Seaside Highland Games. They came mainly to watch the heavy athletics competitions and sheep herding demonstrations. It gave me an opportunity to also talk about Bobby's and my Scottish heritage. Bobby came by the Mayflower Descendants table, and we talked for a while about the pop-up display listing the Mayflower Passengers. I don't think Bobby and Danielle will be joining the Society soon but hopefully one day so I'll keep building the foundation one step at a time.

Dr. Robert Lincoln, Ph. D. Deputy Governor South

### California Mayflower Society History

On October 17, 1907, eleven years after the General Society of Mayflower Descendants formed in Plymouth, Massachusetts, thirteen Californians gathered at the Century Club in San Francisco to establish what is now known as the California Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Herbert Folger, born in 1888, a descendant of the *Mayflower* passenger, Degory Priest, initiated the October meeting. In addition to Herbert those in attendance were Frances Soule Campbell, Clinton Folger, Maria Freeman Gray, Mrs. Willard Mudgett Griffin, Laurilla Moore Hathaway, Sarah Louise Kimball, George Arthur Merrill, Mrs. Edwin White Newhall, Mrs. George Washington Percy, George Willig Spencer, Mrs. George Pierce Thurston and Seth Wilson Cushman.

Herbert Folger was elected chairman and Seth Wilson Cushman was the first secretary. During the evening, Herbert presented to the group a letter from Clarence E. Leonard, Secretary General of the General Society, stating that a charter had been granted to residents of the state of California who were members of the General Society.

The California Society of Mayflower Descendants has grown from the original thirteen members to a society that is second only in size to the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants. Our total state membership is currently 2,410 members. There are 14 regional colonies throughout the state. Each Colony has its own government and meeting schedules. Be sure to check out the State Colonies page, in the "Contact tab" above, to find the websites for each of them so that you can get involved locally. The California State Board of Assistants meets four times a year to discuss state-wide business and is comprised of members from each of the State Colonies.

#### **Editors Note:**

The current California Society of Mayflower Descendants Board of Assistants thought it would be a good idea to request all fourteen colonies in California to do a little research and share with all the other colonies in the state about how and when their colony was founded. For some colonies, this was an easy request because previous members had written about the founding of the colony and left good records. For other colonies it was a difficult assignment and it found current members looking for clues so they could come up with information. For one colony, it was a bigger problem because they just lost their long-time colony historian and they were not only grieving for her loss, but having to come up with this information was just too much to handle at this time.

With all this said, this is a great start in sharing the colony's histories and we are hoping when colonies find more information, they might be willing to share their additional historical finds with the rest of us in the state. A big thank you to all of you for your time and energy in helping create this edition of the CA Mayflower Quarterly.



#### Alameda Colony History

Alameda Colony is the second oldest colony in the State of California, having been chartered in 1951. It is interesting to note that members from Hawaii were part of the membership that chartered in 1951 as Alameda Colony. Hawaii formed its own colony in 1958 and is no longer a part of Alameda Colony. More on the forming of our colony will be forthcoming.

Some general history of some of the members of Alameda Colony is as follows:

Myrtle Savage has been a cornerstone of the Alameda Colony for many years, having served as a Colony Governor, staffing the Mayflower Library for many years, and helping dozens of members prove their lines, including this writer. She was tutored by Eddie Bates Thomas, who started the Silver Book Project for the National Society until her death a number of years ago. Eddie also worked with Robert Wakefield on this project. At his passing, his personal library of books was donated to the Library. Myrtle was also the head Historian for the Society and served with three other co-Historians: Patricia Friesen, David Grinnell, and Kenneth Whittemore. Another member of our Colony involved with producing volumes for the Society and that is Louise Walsh Throop who prepared the pink volumes for George Soule. Kenneth Whittemore, who is now residing in the lower half of our state, served as one of Alameda's Governors when he was stationed here in the North. We can be proud of all these members who have stepped forward and have represented our Colony well. There are many more. Stay tuned as we update our history.

More on <u>Mayflower Library Research in Northern California</u>: We invite and encourage anyone who finds themselves In Northern California to check out one or more of these amazing research libraries that are available for your use.

- 1. California Mayflower Library, Oakland
- 2. California Genealogical Society Library, Oakland
- 3. Family Search Library, Oakland
- 4. Napa Valley Genealogical Society, Napa
- 5. Santa Clara Public Library [on second floor], Santa Clara
- 6. Sonoma Public Library, Sonoma
- 7. Sutro Library, South San Francisco

Each of these Libraries has access to the Silver Books! If you find yourself near Oakland, CA stop in at any of these Oakland Libraries. Of special note is the Mayflower Library staffed by Nancy Lucchese on Thursdays from 10am to 2pm and Fridays from 10am to 4pm. She is also available by special appointment. Email her at: lucchesepeter@comcast.net or call at: 510-451-9599 to set up a time when you can go into the Mayflower Library in Oakland.



#### San Diego Colony History

(As per a copy of a letter) To the Board of Assistants of the Society of Mayflower Descendant in the State of California, 12 Geary Street, San Francisco 8,

California: A preliminary meeting called for the purpose of forming a Chapter of the California Society, in the County of San Diego, was held on 9 May, 1949, at 2658 Sixth Avenue, San Diego.

Temporary officers were elected as follows:

Regent (pro tem) Rowena Houghton Barney

Recorder (pro tem) Pauline Starr White

By-Laws Committee: Mrs. W.H. Porterfield, Pauline White, Paul H. Gass

A second meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1949, and the enclosed signed petition was adopted, and ordered forwarded to your Board, together with a copy of the tentative By-laws by which the Chapter is to be governed.

If this our petition is granted, we propose to formally organize the Chapter as soon thereafter as possible.

Kindly address reply to Regent (pro tem)

Very truly,

Rowena Houghton Barney (signature)

Pauline Starr White (signature)

SAN DIEGO, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIPORNIA
To the Board of Assistants
of the Society of Mayflower Descendants
in the State of California.
The undersigned members of the Society of Mayflower Descendants
in the State of California, all of whom are residents in the County of
San Diego, California, herewith petition your Board for authority to form
a San Diego County Chapter of the Society.
In conformity with the provision in the Constitution and By-
Laws of the State Society (Article IX Section I ) we are inclosing with
this petition a copy of our proposed By-laws.
(Bena)
1590 1- Rowers Haughton Barney - Corporinging Regent
1642 2- Polly Eva Walbridge anderson (Mu Charles Le Clay)
1643 3- amarylles Walbridge Chumbergh (Mr. Andrew )
1552 4 Margel Stechel Jewie (Mrs JJ.)
1501 5- Evangeline Buch Steckel (Mrs George Stickel)
1500 6- Little Buck Portufule (Mh. Dr. 4.)
1587.8 Dealrice Bradford Me grayor (Mrs. John Goldon)
1653 9- Roberta W. Ganowing Berlie (Mrs. George E.)
821 10- Janue Anester Howell (Mrs H. H.)
1791 . Paul Storry Cost (Mat. 15997)
12- Ella Brown Deylon (Mr. Charles D. Dylon)
1559 13- Unne Jane Stare White (Mrs. C. Eldon White

(Per copy from the San Diego newspaper)

Sun. June 19, 1949

#### S. D. Mayflower Colony Accepted; To Meet Saturday

San Diego's new Colony of Mayflower Descendants in California is now a fully accredited member of the national association of pioneer American who can trace ancestry to the men and women who landed on Plymouth Rock in 1620. Mrs. Rena Barney, who had been appointed organizing regent, received the charter from the Board of Assistants of the State Colony of Mayflower Descendants, confirming the San Diego Colony's acceptance, at the state board meeting held in San Francisco May 29.

First regular meeting of the new colony will be the Founder's Day luncheon to be held Saturday at 12:30 in The San Diego Club. A business meeting will follow, when officers will be elected.

Mrs. Barney reports 30 members enrolled, all of whom qualify as charter members of the local colony and 11 with "papers pending" who are eligible.

# The History of San Diego Colony of Mayflower Society (The First Three Decades) By Mrs. Elsie Mettlach, ca. 1981

Back in the years of 1948 and 1949, a small group assembled together just as their forbears had done over 300 years earlier with one goal in mind. This time it was not to sign a compact, but to form a Mayflower Colony in San Diego. How determined they were. Their leader was not a stalwart man of the church or the military, but a tiny frail white-haired lady, possibly 5 feet tall, weight a mere 100 lbs. What a dynamic little lady, Rena Barney was.

Her heart and soul set on the foundation of a colony, she worked without ceasing. Such dedication. She was truly a proud Mayflower Descendant. Naturally, she was chosen as the first Colony Governor. Many of us were convinced it was her aim to be our leader as long as she lived. The old adage proved true---the spirit was willing, but the flesh was weak. She did serve, however, from 1949 to 1954. Our first meeting place was the San Diego Club, a private club in the building at the corner of 6th and A Street in San Diego. Meetings were held twice a year. In June, we observed Founder's Day. This was the business meeting. Guests were not permitted to attend. As time went on that changed and later guests were invited for the luncheon only.

The fall meeting was always held on Compact Day, November 21<sup>st</sup>, if at all possible. If not, the nearest date available was chosen. Decorations were always pink and white for those are the Mayflower colors. A replica of the good ship Mayflower and our charter graced the head table. We stood and recited loyally the Mayflower Compact in respect to our ancestors.

I remember so well the Mayflower picnic held in the Pepper Grove in Balboa Park. What a great time we had. Games of all sorts and food galore as it was a potluck luncheon. A real get better acquainted party. The second Colony Governor was "yours truly". My term covered the years 1954-1956. The most prominent memory I have of that period was of the days when Elzoe Weissgerber, our Registrar and I equipped with typewriters, books and papers, traveled from the home of one applicant after another assisting them in preparing their application papers. Our calendar was filled from early until late day after day. Our satisfaction was in seeing the San Diego Colony begin to grow.

Mr. Frank Ruppel was Governor 1956-1958. Our meetings were still held at the San Diego Club as best I can recall. In 1958, Paul Goss became Governor.

A dedicated Christian gentleman and a retired minister; he was an inspiration to all of us. I served on his board. Our board meetings were all day sessions. Gertrude Thorp opened her home often to us for the board meetings.

During Paul's term we presented a framed map of Plymouth Colony to the San Diego Public Library. Throughout the years, we have also donated books to the genealogical room at the library. Lewis Maxwell Thompson, a retired Navy man was Governor from 1960 to 1962. He and his wife were both very faithful workers. His life centered around the Mayflower activities.

Mrs. Cecilia (Jos.W.) Benson served as Governor from 1962 to 1964. Those years I was extremely busy as State Regent of DAR so I am afraid I was not much help to her. However, Pauline White, Ruth Dillon, the Crutchetts and others already mentioned manned the fort. Cecelia was one of those who went to Plymouth for the 350th celebration; she now lives in Sun City, CA.

Mrs. Dana C. Blyney of Oceanside served as Governor for one year only, 1964-65. She resigned due to poor health. Earl Van Dusen has been one of our most faithful members, became Governor for the second year of Mrs. Blayney's term and served until 1967. He truly has been one of the stalwarts of the San Diego Colony attending State meetings, serving on the Board of Assistants, holding the office of Treasurer for many years, etc. Thanks Earl.

In 1967-1968 I, Mrs. Mettlach, served as Governor again. I expect just to bring us back to elections in the even years. It seems to me that it was about this time that we held a worship service at First Congregational Church in San Diego and Mrs. Porterfield was in charge. The pastor was our speaker, and we sang the good old pilgrim hymns. I recall too in the very early years of th colony another service was held in the Pilgrim Congregational Church on University Avenue in North Park. It too was outstanding. Occasionally we have held genealogical workshops for the purpose of helping one another with our lines. One very rewarding session was held at the SD Woman's Club. Another such meeting was held at the Marine Base.

Eugene Shapely, another fine Christian gentleman and leader in the University Christian Church, served as Governor 1968-70. His home was always open for our board meetings. We enjoyed many fellowship luncheons there with the Shapely's as our hosts. Through his influence we were permitted to hold our meetings for a time at the University Christian Church.

From 1970-1972 Dwight Twist was Governor. The offices in which he has served are proof of his dedication to the Society. In 1977 he was elected Governor of the California State Society of Mayflower Descendants and in 1981 he has been nominated for the post of Governor General of the National Society. I wish him every success. I shall be waiting anxiously for word from the Congress. I've not forgotten by any means my trip to the Triennial Congress in Plymouth, three years ago. I'd love to be there this year, but duty calls me to Yorktown, VA in October as a member of the DAR Yorktown Bicentennial Steering Committee.

Eugene Waterman was elected Governor 1974-76. My days on the board had ended long before this so it is more difficult for me to recall happenings of that period. One very pleasant memory during his term was to see him and Mrs. Waterman in attendance at the dedication of the statue "Men of Vision" the Bicentennial gift of the DAR's to the people of California which is now in Junipero Sierra Museum.

Edward Wickes was Governor 1976-78, and he too was a most faithful servant. At one time we had high hopes that he was to represent us on the National Board, but his plans had to be changed. It was during his term, at the suggestion of Earl Van Dusen, that a Mayflower Endowment Fund was inaugurated. I hope you have all contributed. Ed now lives in New England.

Mr. Clifford C. Gregg was Governor 1978-80. Mr. Charles Gildart became Governor in 1980-81 and this year Mr. William T. Adams assumed the office. I am sure their accomplishments are as fresh in your minds as in mine. Well done, good and faithful servants.

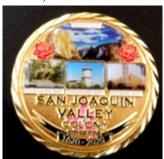
Our meeting places have varied from time to time, some have slipped my mind and no doubt there are events that I have failed to recall. As I close this chat on SD Colony Memories, I personally extend my thanks as a charter member of this colony to each of you for the part you have played in bringing our Colony to the statue if now holds, one of the largest in the State and I believe and worthy of providing National Leadership to the Society.

Congratulations to all!

#### San Joaquin Valley Colony History

"By virtue of the authority vested in us, we hereby grant to said petitioners this charter..." This was the document the founders of The San Joaquin Valley Colony (SJVC) were elated to receive. Dated the eighteenth day of May 1974 the colony of the Mayflower Descendants in the State of California, San Joaquin Valley Colony was formed.

The *San Joaquin Valley Colony* encompasses the greater central valley counties of Kern, Fresno, Madera, and Merced. At the time it was founded there were 58 charter members. While the num-



bers have gone up and down, the current membership stands at 77 members throughout the central valley and beyond. The first meeting took place on July 10, 1974 in Fresno. **Evelyn Forbes** led this colony on its new adventure as the first governor. In the beginning they had evening meetings that were held at various places and on different days of the week. To establish a routine, after a short while the colony settled on four Saturday luncheon meetings to be held at a central location (Fresno) and easily accessible from a highway offramp. Throughout the history of the colony, luncheon meetings have been held on or near to the 4th Saturday of September, November, January, and April. In recent years, the lunch-

eons have been limited to the spring and fall meetings while the executive officers also meet in January and September in preparation for the upcoming colony luncheons. Though luncheons can be a great way to meet other members and have great discussions on a multitude of subjects, "it was decided by a consensus of participating members that programs should be confined to facts about our Pilgrim Ancestors and / or New England history." (Robert C. Soule – colony governor- 4/26/96). With this goal in mind, the San Joaquin Valley Colony has hosted a great number of scholars, authors, and experts of the Mayflower ancestors and history. In addition, Robert Soule was able to find records of the SJVC hosting Annual State Meetings in both May 1979 and May 1991.

When home copiers became available in the 1980's, colony members Valerite Howland and Tom Mott opened their homes and genealogical records to others to sift through and make copies to



Charlie Wadham reading Mayflower story

bolster their own records or help with proving their ancestry to the pilgrims of the Mayflower. The San Joaquin Valley Colony has participated in other notable genealogical activities such as Genealogical Fairs in Clovis on



Members assembling 5th grade Mayflower educational packets

February 3, 1978, and at an LDS church in 1982, and Community Awareness Day held at the Fashion Fair Mall, in Fresno, on October 14, 1995.

Our colony has several remarkable honorees. In 1987, member **Colonel Harold E. Comstock** (*John Howland*), was honored for his induction into the American Fighter Aces Association at Champlin Fighter Museum, Mesa, Arizona, for breaking the flight speed barrier (prior to Chuck Yeager's record in 1947). **Valerite V. Howland** (governor) and **Robert C. Soule** (chaplain) received the "*Governor's Commendation Awards*" for their service to the Mayflower Society. They were awarded this distinction at the 82<sup>nd</sup> annual state meeting held at the Fresno Hilton Hotel, May 18, 1991. One of our longest standing members was **Bea Baumback**. She was the first Colony Registrar and served in this position for twenty years! In recognition of her untiring service a loving tribute akin to <u>This is Your Life</u> was presented at the September 24, 1994, colony meeting.

With so much rich history of our ancestors and the history of our colony we can't wait to gather as many members at our meeting June 8, 2024, to celebrate our **50**th **Anniversary** as the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California, San Joaquin Valley Colony. We are excited to have Mr. Dale Thomas, a founding member, joining us at this celebration!

Diane Brueggemann San Joaquin Valley Colony, Historian/Editor

#### Santa Barbara Colony History

The Santa Barbara Colony was formed May 19, 1967, through the efforts of Mrs. Geraldine Wheeler of Santa Barbara, along with several other members of the colony. For many years, meetings were held at member's homes in the Santa Barbara area. Mrs. Wheeler, and others, were very active during the formative years and were a strong force in the Community.

We currently have a Colony newsletter. Our first issue was in October 2005 and is published twice each year. Your newsletter Editor has been Past Governor and Colony Membership Chairman Tami Wilkening. Each Governor is also on this committee. Articles are always encouraged by any member. We also purchase Mayflower Silver books to 5 different locations in our area. We started this project in 2004 and will continue as long as the National Society publishes new books. This has helped with membership over the years.

We currently have a full set of Mayflower Silver books at the following locations: Santa Barbara County Genealogical Library, Santa Maria Public Library (Second Floor), San Luis Obispo Genealogical Society (Arroyo Grande Public Library), the Ventura County Genealogical Library (Camarillo Public Library – second floor at the South East Corner of the building) and Santa Maria Historical Society. We have two libraries where we have donated Mayflower children's books. These are located at the Goleta Public Library and the Arroyo Grande Public Library.

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We also donate money each year to the State Scholarship fund. In the last couple of years, we have had two State Scholarship winners and one National 4th Place winner. Currently, the Colony meets twice a year on a Saturday. Our Annual meeting is held in April of each year. Our Mayflower Compact meeting is in October. We have approximately 107 members. Our Colony welcomes all Mayflower members to our meetings, but we primarily cover San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County and some of Ventura County - typically Ventura, Oxnard and Ojai. Since COVID, we are trying a new format to our twice Annual meetings and that is a hybrid meeting. We have an in person meeting in the Santa Barbara home of Jay Williams and one in Arroyo Grande at a clubhouse of Assistant Governor Leslie Lechner. These meeting locations are linked online via ZOOM. Those members that cannot make one of the in person meetings can join via ZOOM. That way we can reach more of our members and those members out of State. Many members don't like driving 2 to 4 hours round trip to a meeting, so this seems like a reasonable option.

#### Past Governors - Santa Barbara Colony

- 1. Geraldine (Hartshorn) Wheeler 1967 1969 (deceased) 2/5/1919 to 3/9/2014
- 2. Sylvia Gardner (Lufburrow) Decker 1969 1971 (deceased) 8/26/1911 to 5/1993
- 3. Barbara (Decker) Landis 1971 1973
- 4. Catherine Maguire 1973 1976
- 5. Mrs. David Warner 1976 1979
- 6. Joy (Fitch) Larson 1979 1982 (deceased) 10/26/1923 to 1/19/2012
- 7. Lewis Deming Hobart 1982 1985 (deceased) 5/19/1908 to 5/14/1987
- 8. Amy Estelle (Woods) Marwede 1985 1987 (deceased) 8/12/1910 to 9/30/1994
- 9. Mary Ellen (Webster) Galbraith 1987 1989 (deceased) 1/1/1911 to 3/11/2005
- 10. Mrs. Harold Faulkner 1989 1991 (deceased)
- 11. Carrie "Dee" Rickards 1991 1992 (deceased) to 9/9/2017
- 12. Rosemary Flamion 1992 1995
- 13. Winifred Gill 1995 1996 (deceased)
- 14. Warren Warner 1996 2001
- 15. Priscilla Brewster (Lane) Draper 2001 2003 (deceased) 8/3/1923 to 2/27/2013
- 16. Richard Gardner Hunter 2003 2005 (deceased) 11/1/1929 to 4/2/2010
- 17. Dolores (Beckwith) Barton 2005 2007
- 18. Tami (Bowden) Wilkening 2007 2011
- 19. Judith (Lyman) Cardinal 2011 2013
- 20. Ruth (Howerton) Jackson 2013 2017
- 21. Ray Garrett 2017-2021
- 22. Gregg Garrison 2021
- 23. Ray Garrett 2021-2023 (Appointed by the State)
- 24. Jay Williams 2023 Present



























Submitted by Tami Wilkening

#### Rancho Conejo Colony History

Approved: 21 June 2014

Chartered: 27 September 2014

Our Colony begins: With a band of over 20 brave members in the Society of Mayflower Descendants, our colony started with the realization we would prefer to meet locally rather than traveling to colonies over 50 miles away. So in true California fashion, you could say our colony was founded because of traffic!

Since a new colony had not been established in the state of California for many years, we had to forge our own path, much like our Mayflower ancestors. Dee Rickards, Robert Dempster and



L-R: Robert Dempster, Colony Gov. Helen Wyers, Dep. Col. Gov. Barbara Warren, Treasurer Donna McCullough, Elder, Yvonne Knerr, Captain Kenneth Whittemore, CA Gov.

Helen Wyers were instrumental with our establishment. We met as a "colony in formation" for several years until our persistence paid off in 2014, when our colony was chartered by the state society.

Robert Dempster, our first governor, provided a lively agenda and champagne at our first official meeting on September 27, 2014; Governor Bob also provided our Colony insignia, bell and gavel. Our first meeting was also attended by State Governor Kenneth Whittemore. Helen Wyers, Deputy governor, scheduled local speakers and organized our meetings to attract more members.

She was very successful as we

often had more attendees than members! Helen wrote a play "The Stormy Voyage of the Mayflower" which was read at our compact meeting on November 8, 2014. Later, as Colony Membership Chair, she assisted prospective members on their way to becoming members. Lorraine Kocen was our original Recording Secretary and second governor of our colony. She began recording our activities in 2010!



CA Gov. Kenneth Whittemore swearing in officers



CA Gov. Kenneth Whittemore with Rancho Conejo Gov. Robert Dempster

Vicki Cooper-Lane continues as our Corresponding Secretary and brought us into modern times with our colony FaceBook page. Barbara Warren accounted for our colony as Treasurer; Donna McCullough was the original Elder and Yvonne Kneer was our Captain.

Librarian Sharon Martin teamed with Governor Bob Dempster to bring knowledge of the Mayflower to our local Conejo Valley School Districts by donating books to school libraries. Books were later donated to Simi Valley Schools by our next (and current) librarian, Darilynn Rice.

To encourage attendance, our meetings were held in various locations in Ventura County. Eventually, our attendance was so large that we decided to have all of our meetings at Los Robles Green. We meet there to this day!

Submitted by Tawny Welch

#### **Orange County Colony History**

The Orange County Colony of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California is part of a nationwide organization that brings together known descendants of the Mayflower Pilgrims who survived that first, harsh winter, who had descendants. Believe it or not, there was a time



when the Pilgrims of Plymouth were virtually forgotten to history. The General Society of Mayflower Descendants, located in Plymouth, Massachusetts, was established in 1897. It was at this time that a renewed interest in the Pilgrims of Plymouth had taken the country by storm. This fervor was kindled by the return of what has been called "the single most important book written in American History" to Massachusetts and the American people in May 1897, the "Bradford Journal" had been returned to the American shores, following a 130-year absence.

The "California Society of Mayflower Descendants" was chartered not long afterward, in 1907. Over the years, the California Society has spawned 14 "Regional Colonies" around the State. These were formed to enable local groups of Pilgrim descendants to gather on a periodic basis, without having to travel all the way to the San Francisco Bay Area every time meetings were to take place. Every Colony sends representatives to attend as "Board of Assistants" to the California State Society. Today, the California Society of Mayflower Descendants, with its associated Colonies, is the second largest organization in the US; second only to the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants in Boston, Mass.

Desiring to create a more local colony in Orange County, several OC residents set out to form a purely Orange County Colony. The first known gathering of the potential "Orange County Colony of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California" occurred on April 27, 1974. With no more than a dozen people present; the meeting was brought to order. On May 9, 1974, less than two weeks later, P. Glenn Smith, the State Governor of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California, opened a meeting held in the Board Room of the State Mutual Savings in Tustin, California. After Governor Smith offered a prayer and the Pledge to the flag was recited, the meeting was turned over to Mrs. Vincent (Laurie) Musso, Chairman of the Organizing Committee. The By-Laws were read and accepted. Once the charter was accepted by the California State Society, Mrs. Musso was elected and installed the first Governor of the Orange County Colony of Mayflower Descendants on June 22, 1974.

The first meeting of the newly chartered Orange County Colony of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California was called to order by Governor Laurie Musso on September 28, 1974. They met at the Revere House in Tustin. The new colony was off and running. Since the colony was chartered in 1974, the Colony has elected some 22 Governors and corresponding Board Members. Initially, the Governors and Board Members served only 1-year terms. However, beginning in 1980 the terms were lengthened to 2-year terms. They can now serve up to two consecutive 2-year terms.

In fulfillment of its charter as an "Educational Organization", through the years, the Orange County Colony has participated in many educational functions at local schools, with the OC Genealogical Society and other societies. Our Education Committee regularly makes donations of Mayflower and Pilgrim historical materials to schools in the Orange County area. Several present these materials in their Pilgrim dresses and suits to the classrooms and libraries.

During these events, they tell stories about their ancestor(s) who they personally descend from. At our meetings we also present many educational programs that highlight topics in Genealogical Research, Pilgrim Heritage, American History and our continued honoring of the Pilgrims' relationship with the Native Americans around Plymouth.

Further, our Society has donated sets of the "Silver Books" to several historical and genealogical societies for their research libraries. The "Silver Books" were produced by the General Society for each of the Pilgrims who survived to have descendants. They are a comprehensive compilation of the first five generations of each of the Pilgrim's progeny. These books are a critical resource to help potential members in their search of suspected lines of descent to Mayflower Pilgrims. Several members of the OC Colony have written genealogical books and pamphlets that have been published and used by the California State and General Societies, as well as other genealogical societies in Southern California.

In the intervening years, the Orange County Colony has seen many members join and become active in the Colony proceedings. Several have even been elected to California State and General Society positions in Massachusetts. All our members are encouraged to participate in various elected and appointed positions that the Colony offers. Should you join our Colony, we encourage you to join in all the activities we have and participate to the fullest extent.

Today, we are looking ahead, we are preparing for the 50th Anniversary of our Colony next April, 2024. The list of Past and Current OC Colony Governors is located below.

#### Past and Current OC Colony Governors

1974 – 1975	Mrs. Laurie E. Musso
1975 – 1976	Hon. Don Earl Smith
1976 – 1977	Mr. E. Day Carmen
1977 – 1978	Mrs. Norma Northcross
1978 - 1980	Mrs. Irene Jordan
1980 - 1982	Mr. Lester L. Humphrey
1982 - 1984	Mrs. Louise K. Thompson
1984 - 1986	Mrs. Gene Nelson
1986 - 1988	Mr. Edward Lewis Erickson
1988 - 1990	Mr. Robert Wilson Wadleigh
1990 - 1992	Mr. James Lindley Emerson
1992 - 1994	YNC (SS) Ralph Allen Cangson USN (ret.)
1994 – 1996	Mrs. Donna Bennett Cole
1996 – 1998	Mrs. Judith Haddock Swan
1998 - 2000	Mr. James Freeman Blauer
2000 - 2004	Mrs. June Brainard Lazich
2004 - 2008	Mrs. Marcia Huntley Maloney
2008 - 2012	Mr. Carlton V. Phillips Jr.
2012 - 2016	Ms. Erica Lis Hahn
2016 - 2018	Mrs. Susan Garrett Astarita
2018 - 2022	Mr. Scott A. Miller
2022 –	Present Mrs. Lisa Cole Shaw
2022 —	1 Tesent 1911s. Lasa Cole shaw



Lisa Cole Shaw, OC Colony Governor Credit to Jim Blauer, research paper

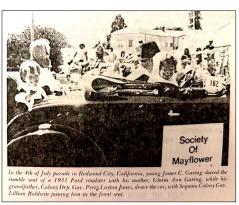
#### Sequoia Colony History

The Sequoia Colony of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California was founded in August 1972. Seventeen founding members met Saturday August 12, 1972 at The Sequoias, a retirement community in Portola Valley, California and signed their names to the Colony Charter. Patricia Stebbins was Colony Governor, and Joan Boelter Foerster was Colony Secretary. Since then, twenty members have had the honor of serving as Governor of the Sequoia Colony.

With about 215 members on our current roster, we are one of fourteen Mayflower colonies in California. Our luncheon meetings in March, June, and November feature topics of historical interest. Past activities include hosting luncheons around the San Francisco peninsula, supporting scholarships, participating in at least one Fourth of July parade, newspaper and educational outreach.







Local 4th of July parade 1982

Submitted by Sharon Winslow Erickson

#### Los Angeles Colony History

This article includes information taken from an article in the Winter 2017 California Mayflower Quarterly that was written by then LA Colony Governor Franklin Smith marking the one-hundred -year anniversary of the colony.

In 1916, Lt. Col. Holdridge Ozro Collins, who later was a member of the California Society Board of Assistants, requested having meetings in Los Angeles for those members of the State Society living in Southern California. At that time, the meetings of the Society were only held in Northern California in San Francisco. On November 25th, 2016, the first meeting for Mayflower Descendants in all of Southern California was held. I like to think that they discussed the celebration of the upcoming 300-year anniversary of the voyage of the Mayflower along with the ongoing first World War. It was known then as the Southern Division of the Mayflower Descendants in the State of California. Lt. Col. Collins' office served as the headquarters for the Mayflower Society in Southern California in the San Fernando building at 400 South Main Street in downtown Los Angeles which opened in 1907. The San Fernando Building still stands and was converted to loft apartments in 2000.

Some details on Lt. Col. Collins' life can be found in the Bulletin of the Southern California Academy of Sciences, Volume 26, Issue, 2, page 51-52 in a Memoriam on him. He was born in New



Lt. Col. Holdridge Collins, founding member of the Southern Division (later Los Angeles Colony). (Downloaded from the geni.com entry for Holdridge Ozro Collins from the photo album of Stephen R. Ehrhart.)

York in 1844 and graduated from St. Louis University and Harvard. He was a member of the Illinois National Guard being eventually appointed Adjunct General of the State of Illinois with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He became a lawyer in Illinois and continued that profession when moving to Los Angeles in 1893. In 1893, together with five other men, he was a Founder of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of California. Lt. Col. Collins served as their first President until 1907 and again from 1909 to 1912. Lt. Col. Collins was also a founder of the Society of Colonial Wars in California in 1895. He was an early member of the Southern California Academy of Sciences and served as their Secretary for nearly twelve years after being elected in 1908. Lt. Col. Collins died in 1927 when run over in a hit and run car accident near his home in Hollywood.

As the California Society of Mayflower Descendants grew, the Southern Division split further with the original group becoming the Los Angeles Colony. There are currently seven colonies in the southern part of California and from their dates of their establishment, one can trace the history of when

a locale grew sufficient to support its own colony: in 1951 San Diego Colony, in 1967 Santa Barbara Colony, in 1974 Orange County Colony, also in 1974 Inland Empire Colony, in 2014 Rancho Conejo Colony, and finally in 2017 Foothill Colony. This is the list of current colonies making up the geography of the Southern Division. Over the more than one-hundred years of the Los Angeles Colony there have been other colonies that were established but later folded back into the Los Angeles Colony or other colonies. For example, when I first joined the Mayflower Society in 2000, I was a member of the San Gabriel Colony which later dissolved, at which time I was placed into the Los Angeles Colony. I recently came across the California Mayflower Quarterly for the Summer of 2000 when Donna Cole was recently elected California Governor and there are sixteen colonies in the state at that time. There were seven in the southern part of the state: Inland Empire, Los Angeles, Orange County, Pomona Valley, San Diego, San Gabriel, and Santa Barbara. All of these were part of the original Southern Division.

The Los Angeles Colony celebrated its one-hundred-year anniversary in 2016 with an event at the Los Angeles Athletic Club in downtown Los Angeles on November 12th, 2016. The Winter 2017 California Mayflower Quarterly contains many pictures from this special anniversary event. This Quarterly can be found on the state website at https://www.camayflower.org/publications.html. Also included in the article is a list of the past Los Angeles Colony Governors starting with Lt. Col. Holdridge Collins and ending with the 34th LA Colony Governor Franklin Smith. That makes me the 35th LA Colony Governor.

Submitted by Dr. Robert Lincoln, Ph.D.

#### San Francisco Peninsula Colony History

After several organizational meetings with residents from San Francisco, Millbrae, Burlingame and San Mateo, the San Francisco Peninsula Colony became the fourth Colony in California to receive their charter. The Colony was chartered on November 6, 1954. The Charter Members were: Mrs. Alice J. (Pelot) Foley; Nelle F. Keesling; Mrs. Ruth S. (Johnson) Hermann; Verna Cook; Hon. Bradford Bosley; Mrs. Lulu (Brunt) Dawson; Mrs. Kathryn (Smith) Olin; Mrs. Emilie V. (Piolett) Spear; Mr. James E. Dewey; Mrs. Helen T. (Peterson) Lightfoot; Mrs. Hildegard (Standish) Lauer; Mrs. Abigail Louise (Minchen) McLain; Mrs. Katherine E. (Harlow) Waggoner; Dr. John Milam; Mr. Logan Gray; and Mr. Henry Lewis Mathewson. The first regular meeting was held in Hillsborough at the home of the Vice Lt. Governor, where the following Colony Officers were elected: Lt. Governor: Mrs. Alice J. (Pelot) Foley; Vice Lt. Governor: Mrs. Katherine E. (Harlow) Waggoner; Secretary: Mrs. Kathryn (Smith) Olin; Treasurer: Mrs. Ruth S. (Johnson) Hermann; Elder: Mrs. Jessie Eloise (Coward) Mathewson; and Registrar: Miss Helen Marsha Bruner.

Four meetings a year were planned, with meetings held at homes, church halls, school auditoriums, the Presidio Golf Clubhouse, Fort Mason Officer's Club, the Officer's Club on Treasure Island and at various restaurants located in San Francisco and San Mateo County. Since June 2022, our meetings have been held at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. Luncheon meetings start with Colony business, followed by a speaker with presentations that range from Mayflower history to local history and other subjects of interest. Early Colony meetings included an outing to Sonoma to visit the San Francisco Solano Mission and General Vallejo's Home, a visit to the San Mateo County Historical Museum, and a presentation on the history of Redwood City, including how some streets were renamed after Mayflower Pilgrims, including Alden, Allerton, Bradford, Brewster, Eaton, Fuller, Hopkins, Howland, Samson, Standish, Warren and Winslow.

In 1995, Colony member Ann Stoylen presented her idea for a Mayflower Museum West at the San Francisco Presidio to the Colony. In January 1996 she presented her idea to the State Board of Assistants. A committee was formed, and discussions were held with the National Park Service (the U.S. Army controlled the Presidio until 1994), but the Presidio administration was in transition and instead would be administered by a National Trust. By the Fall of 1998, the committee reported that the Tides Foundation had declined the Society's proposal.

Most recent meetings have included a tour of Grace Cathedral, a presentation on the history of the San Francisco Fire Department and presentations by Colony members on Lineage Societies, family research and a trip to England and Holland with the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Our March meeting is a joint meeting hosted by the Sequoia Colony at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton and the annual Compact Day meeting is held in November with the San Francisco, Alameda and Redwood Empire Colony's each taking turns to host the event.

Sources: Centennial History, General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1897-1997, (Plymouth, MA, 1999), pages 659-662; Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California Bulletins; California Mayflower Quarterly; and Colony meeting announcements.

Submitted by Dianne Sweeny

#### Redwood Empire Colony History

Although the California Society started at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco in 1905, eight years after founding of the General Society, it was another seventy years before the 14th California Colony was established to include all members north of the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border. In 1975 State Treasurer Fred Palmer Ill and Assistant Historian Wanelda Jones, both living in Sonoma County , felt that they and the other members needed a colony in this area rather than

having to travel the long distance to the San Francisco Bay Area. Through their efforts the Redwood Empire Colony was officially started when a letter was sent out by the State Office in January 1976 inviting all members living north of the Golden Gate Bridge to a luncheon meeting in Santa Rosa on February 28, 1976. The State Treasurer, Fred Palmer III presided at this organizational meeting. Other State Officers present were Miss Elizabeth Smith, the State Governor, Dorothy Pringle, the State Secretary and Wanelda Jones, the State Assistant Historian. The proposed name, "The Redwood Empire Colony," met with enthusiasm. Officers were elected for the new colony, with Alice Egolf as Colony Governor.



Past State Governors Dickenson and Friesen still confer at Redwood Empire meetings!

Over the next four decades of service this Colony has served a membership dispersed over hundreds of miles of California and managed to serve the State Society with some memorable 'Redwoods' including Fred Palmer III who was State Governor and Deputy Governor General to the General Society. Wanelda Jones went on to serve as State Secretary. Our current Colony Elder, Sally Johnson, was called on in 2007 to establish the National Scholarship Program, then returned home to serve as the State Membership Secretary before being elected as Deputy Governor North. In recent years we have been proud of State Governors Don Dickenson ('03-'07) and Pat Friesen ('15-'17). Currently, the Redwood Empire Governor serves as the Chair of the State Investment Committee, managing the investment of all State reserve funds. We may be small and remote but stand tall in our commitment to serving the Society.

Submitted by John McNeill

#### Monterey Bay Colony History

In 1917, it was agreed that members within California could associate themselves as local chapters

#### Mayflower Club Enthusiast Dies

Herbeit Folger, foremost figure of the Mayflower Club in California, and one of the widest known genealogists in the west, died Sunday at his home at 2715 Claremont avenue, Berkeley. It was due primarily to the unceasing efforts of Folger that the Mayflower Club of California has become the second largest in the United States. He was born in San Francisco on December 5, 1558, and for many years had been widely interested in genealogy.

**s.** Obituary of Herbert Folger for social purposes. From that original vision to meet and celebrate their Pilgrim heritage in California, that society, founded in San Francisco, has expanded to a statewide community of now fourteen colonies.

Sometime before Nov 11, 1961, Florence Baker, a Bradford descendent who lived in Salinas, wrote a letter under the letter head of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California, to Col William Chapman, of Pebble Beach, who was a member of the Society and a descendent of Cooke, Warren and White, announcing the intention of creating a Monterey Bay Colony.

Florence never

sister never had chil-

There was a meeting scheduled on 11 Nov 1961 to discuss the formation of the society. Florence handwrote a personal note expressing her hope that William would attend. Florence Baker was the granddaughter of the first mayor of Salinas, Isaac Julian Harvey, and at that time she was living in the old family home on Romie Lane with her widowed sister, Helen Currie.

#### Florence Margaret Baker, descendant of Salinas' first mayor, dies in Portola Valley married, and her

Forence Margaret Baker, a native of Salinas and anddaughter of the city's first mayor, died Tuesy at the Sequoias retirement home in Portola lley. She was 90.

Wiss Baker and her late sister. Helen Baker Curdonated the family home built in 1868, the Harticose on Komile Lane, to the Monterey Countries. rical Society.

randfather also was one of the first mer-

grandiather also was one of the first most in the area Baker's mother, Mrs. F.S. Baker, was one of unders of the Monterey County Historical So-and the family actively participated in that ty and other historical and patriotic

Baker was the founder of two chapters of the ower Society, the Monterey Bay Colony and

noia Colony.

were a prominent family in the area. She
wet the (Salinas) community greatly," said
inatra, president of the Monterey County

urvivors include two nephews, F.H. Baker ntain View and Dr. John M. Baker of ento. orial services will be held in Salinas at a

Memorials are preferred to the Monterey County Historical Society in Salinas.



The Harvey House

dren. The home was donated to the Monterey County Historical Society after Florence's death, who was that last of her generation to die. This home is currently called *The Harvey* House, was moved to it current location near the Railroad Depot and is now a museum. It is the oldest building in Salinas. Florence was born 12 Apr 1882 in Salinas, along with her twin brother, Frank. She graduated from UCB in 1916 and was a teacher



Florence M. Baker

for a number of schools in Monterey County and a librarian for a school in Oakland. Her mother was one of the founders

of the Monterey County Historical Society, and in Florence's retirement, Florence was an avid family and local historian. Florence died on 20 Jul 1982, and her ashes where spread on Mt. Toro. Florence dedicated her life in service to Monterey County. Col. William Chapman, who descended from three Mayflower passengers, F. Cooke, Warren and White, came from a long of military heritage. In fact, with the single exception of his grandfather, Henley Wheelock Chapman, every one of his grandfathers, back to the Revolutionary War patriot Henry Henley Chapman was a US Army Officer, usually a West Point graduate. The Chapman Family is one of the more distinguished military families of the United States. A Chapman has been in every major military conflict in US history. The military tradition was also present on his mother's side, where her father retired as a Brigade General and was also a Civil War veteran.



Col. William Chapman

William served in both World War I and II and retired to Pebble Beach in 1946. The Monterey Peninsula, Pacific Grove, had been the family's home since the 1910's, after the death of William's father in the Philippines in 1911. We do see his name on the original Charter and his name appears on the first directory of the colony, along with his brother Lt Col Charles Chapman, and Charles's son, Henry Henley. In 1966, we also see that he was the Governor to our Colony, but I do not know if he was this colony's first governor. All three of these men have since passed, William on 14 Sep 1983, Charles in 1970 and Henry in 2014. Like Florence, William dedicated his life to service to this country.

Submitted by John Reed

ing formed. To organize the fourteenth

#### Foothill Colony History

While many Mayflower Descendants were in the midst of planning and decorating the Rose Parade float "The Voyage of Hope – 1620" for the 2020 Rose Parade to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Mayflower and the Pilgrims in 1620, the Foothill Colony was also be-

colony in The California State Society of Mayflower Descendants, at least 22 members were needed to transfer their membership to the new colony. The Foothill Colony was organized in 2019 by Carole Curran, who collected signatures from Mayflower Society members. Geographically, the Foothill Colony encompassed the area from Ridgecrest to Ontario and east to the California border. The 23 organizing

members were: Caireesa Barry, Diana



Governor Ray Raser installing the Foothill Colony Organizing Board (right to left) Governor Carole Curran, Deputy Governor Harvey Soldan, Treasurer Don St John, and Secretary Jane Wong.

Barry, Margaret Blair, Kim Clark, Mark Cross, Ann Crossland, Carole Curran, Frank Hall, Sue Griffin, Gayle Hagegard, Erica Hahn, Cynthia Gage Hewes, Alex Ladanyi, Robert Littlefield, Lori MacPherson, Donna Riegel, Heather Sabin, Gary Soldan, Harvey Soldan, Donald St John, Beth Stone, Gail Wise and Jane Wong.



Members and Guests attending the first meeting of the Foothill Colony at the Pasadena Highlands on November 9, 2019.

Those signatures, along with preliminary Bylaws and Colony Officers, were submitted to the State Society. The Foothill Colony was approved by the State Society on October 19, 2019 and held its first meeting, November 9, 2019. The Organizing Officers were installed by State Governor Ray Raser and were Carole Curran, Governor; Harvey Soldan, Deputy Governor; Jane Wong, Recording Secretary; and Donald St. John, Treasurer.

A few short weeks later, "The Voyage of Hope – 1620" embarked on its voy-

age on New Year's Day down Colorado Blvd in Pasadena. Coincidentally, the float would be ushered along the parade route by Foothill Colony member, Caireesa Barry on a motor scooter, wearing her white Tournament of Roses suit. On the float, dressed in period attire would also be Foothill Colony members Carole Curran, Donald St John, Beth Stone and Jane Wong. Carole served as the float chair and Jane was in charge of historically correct pilgrim attire.

The Foothill Colony was awarded the coveted Gene Fortine award in 2021 for our work educating the public about the Pilgrims, after only 18 months since being organized and amidst the pandemic which impacted activities for the entire nation after March 2020.

Many Foothill Colony members worked diligently on the 2020 Rose Parade float, gave educational programs in the community, and contributed to museum displays commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the arrival of the Mayflower. We donated Silver Books to the Southern California Genealogical Library and donated funds to the State Scholarship Fund. All of these activities were

accomplished during the pandemic and without any in-person meetings after our organizational meeting. Since organizing in 2019, the Foothill Colony has tripled in size and current board serving on its second term was installed by Governor Scott Miller in April 2022. Officers include Governor Carole Curran,

Deputy Governor Don St. John, Treasurer Cindy Riggs Deem and Secretary Donna Riegel.

During this term, we held a private showing of "Stephano: The True Story of Shakespeare's Shipwreck," continue providing educational programs to our community, and we substantially increased



State Treasurer Harvey Soldan and State Counselor Erica Hahn are congratulated by Footbill Colony Governor Carole Curran at the annual meeting in 2023 at Emeryville, CA.



Current Footbill Colony Board installed by Governor Scott Miller (left to right) Governor Carole Curran, Deputy Governor Don St. John, Treasurer Cindy Riggs Deem and Secretary Donna Riegel.

Foothill Colony remains a vibrant addition to the State Society. Foothill Colony members serving the State Society include Erica Hahn as State Counselor and Harvey Soldan as State Treasurer. Carole Curran continues to serve as the Foothill Colony Governor, as well as State Public Relations Chair. Newly installed member, Tom Adams, serves on the Investment Committee.

Submitted by Carole Curran, Governor

#### Inland Empire Colony History

The Inland Empire will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. Below is the material compiled by Duane A Cline in 1997 for Inland Empire. It was presented to and published by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in 1999.

The Inland Empire Colony of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California was chartered June 15, 1974. It covers the approximate area of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. This is a combined area of 27,278 square miles; larger than the area covered by the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and about one half of Vermont combined.

The Colony owes its existence to the efforts of Mrs. Raymond W. (Phyllis Plummer) Kettler, a descendant of John Alden. In 1972, Mrs. Kettler returned to Riverside with her husband from



Inland Empire Colony Charter Meeting, 1974. L-R: Justin Fuller, Elder; Elsie Caldwell, Treasurer; Marion brown, Secretary; Phyllis Kettler, Governor; Myriam Landen, Historian; Roger White, Deputy Governor

Albany, New York, because he had to take early retirement for health reasons. Mrs. Kettler had belonged to the Society in New York. She contacted the California State Office and asked about a Colony in the Riverside area. The State Society Governor at the time was Mr. P. Glenn Smith.

His response to Mrs. Kettler was, "There is no Colony in that area. You may start one." He sent her a list of State Members living in the area. Ethel Trosky and Myriam Landen had also expressed an interest in a new Colony. The three of them started telephoning

others. Governor Smith was unusually helpful and

interested. He lived in San Gabriel and made the trip to Riverside (at least fifty miles) to help the group. Helen Bruner was retired head librarian of the Sutro Library and was a tremendous asset. Roger White was also part of the first group, and Phyllis refers to him as a "guiding Light and strong motivator." There were enough members to apply for a Charter. The first meeting was held at the home of Phyllis Kettler; Governor P. Glenn Smith presented the Charter; Roger White presented the Colony Flag; and Phyllis Kettler purchased the Governor's medallion. Later, Lena Pearl Clark presented the Colony



with large ceramic dolls—a Pilgrim boy and a Pilgrim girl. Dorothy Goodbaudy made a banner about one yard square.

First Slate of Officers: Governor-Mrs. Phyllis (Plummer) Kettler; Deputy Governor-Mr. Roger White; Secretary-Mrs. Marion (Googins) Brown; Treasurer-Mrs. Elsie (Buck) Caldwell; Historian/Registrar-Mrs. Myriam (Woods) Landen; Elder-Mr. Justin Fuller.

Charter Members: Celia Benson, Mrs. Marion (Googins) Brown, Mrs. Elsie (Buck) Caldwell, Mrs. Ethel (Norton) Galloway, Mrs. Phyllis (Plummer) Kettler, Mrs. Myriam (Woods) Landen, Mrs. Manta Montrose (Love) North, Mrs. Elizabeth (Everett) Rohman, Mrs. Elizabeth (Bush) Shafer, Mrs. Ethel (Bush) Strosky, Mr. Roger White, Miss Helen Marsha Bruner, Mr. Justin Fuller.

The Colony met two or three times at the home of Phyllis Kettler, then several places. The Colony held an annual potluck at the home of Phyllis Kettler until her husband's health deteriorated and she had to discontinue them. Mr. Kettler passed away in 1993, and Phyllis was gracious enough to invite the Colony to her home again in 1994, 1995 and 1996. The Inland Empire Colony has had potlucks at the homes of Cleo Davidson and Elizabeth Rohman. In 1983 they had a picnic in Yucaipa Park, where there was swimming, paddle boating, playgrounds and various games for everyone. In 1983 the Colony also sponsored a float in the Yucaipa Christmas Parade.



Roger White conducting, about 1980 Cleo Davidson , taking minutes Elizabeth Rohman's house

For many years the Colony participated in the Genealogy Fair held by the Hemet San Jacinto Genealogical Society in Hemet Valley Mall. In 1987, the Colony won a trophy for their exhibit "Walk Down Constitution Lane". The exhibit depicted three great documents: The Mayflower Compact, The Declaration of Independence, and The Constitution of the United States.

In 1988, Priscilla Smart visited fifteen elementary schools in November where she spoke to the children about the Mayflower Pilgrims. Other members also visited schools as they could, but no one could top Priscilla's fifteen. Since 1992, the Colony has made an annual donation to the animal project at Plimoth Plantation.

In 1993, the City of San Jacinto held a Heritage Fair at the time of the Ramona Pageant. The Inland Empire Colony had an exhibit in the city park where the parade ended and the Indians danced.

The Colony has place all eight of the silver *Mayflower Families through Five Generations*Books in the libraries at Riverside, Hemet, Sun City, Victorville and San Bernardino. It has also ordered more books to donate in memoriam of its deceased members, and to perpetuate the memory of the Mayflower Pilgrims, and to help those who may be doing research to find their ancestors among those Pilgrims.

#### **Past Colony Governors:**

1974-1978	Mrs. Phyllis (Plummer) Kettler
1978-	Mrs. Elsie (Buck) Caldwell
1979-1980	Mrs. Cleo (Wilmot) Davidson
1981-1982	Mrs. Priscilla (Conley) Smart
1983-1984	Mr. Bill Howe
1985-	Mrs. Josephine (Vance) Juran (now Mrs. Leivy)
1986-1987	Mrs. Dorothy (Wortman) Goodbaudy
1988-1989	Mrs. Virginia Tolles Miller
1990-1991	Miss Mary Lutx
1992-1995	Mrs. Dorothy (Wortman) Goodbaudy
1996-	Mrs. Elizabeth (Maclean) Kiel

#### The current officers for the Inland Empire Colony in our 50th year are:

Pamela Mikkelsen, Governor Ben Hobbins, Assistant Governor Susan Christopher, Treasurer Judy Cunningham, Recording Secretary Carrie MacDonald, Corresponding Secretary Sheila Bostater, Membership Secretary Ashley-Ann Hobbins, Elder.

Submitted by Pamela Mikkelsen



# Colony News

#### Alameda Colony

First, a little catch-up. On Saturday, September 30, 2023, the Alameda Colony held its Fall meeting on Zoom. After the standard opening activities, the colony heard a riveting presentation by our Deputy Governor, David Michael Stringer. His presentation title was "My Road to John Alden". He shared with us his journey to discovering his Mayflower Line and the positive impact that discovery has had and continues to have on his life.

Moving on to November 18, 2023. We joined in the 2023 Compact Day gathering of the Alameda, the Redwood Empire and the San Francisco-Peninsula Colonies of the Society of Mayflower Descendants hosted by the Redwood Empire. The gathering was an in-person celebration. The celebration was held at the Club Restaurant at McInnis Park in San Rafael.

The meeting was called to order by Redwood Empire Colony Governor, John McNeil. The pledge of allegiance was led by Diane Sweeney and the Opening Prayer was led by Sally Johnson.

We were proud to have in attendance, our State Governor, Kathy Watson.

The reading of the Mayflower Compact was done by John McNeil.

Speaking on the Separatists from Leiden was Mary Mitchell. A wonderful lunch was enjoyed by all, followed by a memorabilia Raffle...all tickets were free. There was a myriad of wonderful prizes. The ancestor role call was conducted by Sally Philbin, followed by the Remembrance conducted by John McNeil and the Benediction conducted by Reverand Marsha Davis.

A good time was had by all!

The next meeting of the Alameda Colony will be Saturday, February 24, 2024. Details to follow.

More on <u>Mayflower Library Research in Northern California</u>: We invite and encourage anyone who finds themselves In Northern California to check out one or more of these amazing research libraries that are available for your use.

- 1. California Mayflower Library, Oakland
- 2. California Genealogical Society Library, Oakland
- 3. Family Search Library, Oakland
- 4. Napa Valley Genealogical Society, Napa
- 5. Santa Clara Public Library [on second floor], Santa Clara
- 6. Sonoma Public Library, Sonoma
- 7. Sutro Library, South San Francisco

Each of these Libraries has access to the Silver Books! If you find yourself near Oakland, CA stop in at any of these Oakland Libraries. Of special note is the Mayflower Library staffed by Nancy Lucchese on Thursdays from 10am to 2pm and Fridays from 10am to 4pm. She is also available by special appointment. Email her at: lucchesepeter@comcast.net or call at: 510-451-9599 to set up a time when you can go into the Mayflower Library in Oakland.

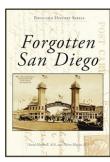
#### San Diego Colony

Our Colony celebrated Compact Day at the usual location, the wonderful Green Dragon Tavern and Museum. We joined together in celebration and reflection of the voyage of the Mayflower and its lasting impact on our country. We endeavor to imagine what the true experience of the Mayflower voyage, and the signing of the compact was really like. Our members and guests love this meeting with all its tradition!

Clearly, we can never learn enough about the passengers on board the ship and the perilous journey they undertook, and we happily enjoyed the perfect guest speaker at our meeting, our member and author, Jonathan Mack. Mr. Mack discussed his book, *A Stranger Among Saints* that took us on a journey, enlightening us to the importance of Stephen Hopkins *the Man Who Survived Jamestown and Saved Plymouth.* **Jonathan was very popular and** autographed many of his books, members enjoyed the day, and of course we love our Mayflower women!









Two of our San Diego Colony members were recently appointed to GMSD Committees. We congratulated our member and State Junior Committee Chair Amy Conboy who was appointed by the new Governor General, Lisa Pennington, to the GSMD Juniors Committee. Our Treasurer Ken Whittemore was appointed to the DNA Committee with Mike Terry and Susan Abanor as Co-Chairs.

Our Colony is looking forward to our February 17, 2024 meeting. We are honored to pre-

sent David Marshall. He and co-author Eileen Magno have written a wonderful book titled "Forgotten San Diego".

David is a gifted speaker and has made presentations about many of his projects over the years. His program will be about the book which features, according to the press release, "over 200 unique and interesting historical postcards that vividly capture San Diego County's forgotten past from 1890 to 1990. From bowling alleys to military bases, from giant dirigibles to sleek airplanes, from billionaires to bulldogs--San Diego has changed so fundamentally that much of its charming history has faded from our memories. Forgotten San Diego showcases the unique evolution of San Diego and its neighboring cities, making sure that the triumphs, tragedies, and oddities of this region live on".

Judith Reale Governor, San Diego Colony

#### Rancho Conejo Colony

Compact Day is always a special occasion, solemn and joyous! This year ours was even more so! We had a first ever, joint meeting with the Aquila Chase Chapter of the Colonial Dames XVII Century! Over 60 in attendance! It was wonderful to see so many old and new friends! 'Twas a convenience for many as well, 15 ladies were members of BOTH groups! Of course, ALL fe-



Lorraine Kocen, RCC Chaplain, State Elder; Holly Newcomb RCC Treasurer & Tawny Welch

male Mayflower descendants are eligible for Colonial Dames XVII Century, something to think about ladies! Aquila Chase President Lorraine Kocen (Rancho Conejo's immediate past Governor) and I shared the ritual and business duties. All Board and Committee reports were filed in the interest of time but were available for members' perusal. For the sake of the many present who were unfamiliar with the COMPACT, the

reading was augmented by a brief history and context. It's immense-

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Mayflower New Members

ly gratifying to see the reactions of those learning about our precious document for the first time, how surprised and impressed they are to learn of its origin and import. This meeting can be a tad overwhelming with ALL of the attendant occasions that we



Heritage Harmony Players

celebrate.

It's challenging to accord Compact Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving and the soon to follow Holidays the honor and remembrance they deserve with our time constraints! I

hope we succeeded!

How wonderful that 5 new members were there to celebrate the season with us! Membership Chair Don Morris helped us wel-



Terri DeMey & Josepha Hale

come Anita Schmidt (William White), mother and son DeAnna Grove and Kane Agar (Stephen Hopkins), and mother and son Jennifer and Simon Levin (Edward Doty). Our regular presentation about a Mayflower passenger was renamed for this event!

"My Mayflower/Colonial Ancestor" was presented by Sharon Martin, a member of both groups and the 10<sup>th</sup> GGranddaughter of Isaac Allerton. As always, a fascinating history lesson!

After lunch Deputy-Governor and former Aquila Chase President Terri DeMey introduced a very special program. The Heritage Harmony Players, a fantastic quintet of actors and singers, delighted all with "An Interview with Sarah Josepha Hale: the Godmother of Thanksgiving". Such a treat and the perfect way to close this unique and memorable meeting.

Our next meeting is Saturday, 24 February at Los Robles Greens in Thousand Oaks. Hoping you had a BLESSED Holiday season and wishing you good health, fulfillment and joy in the New Year.

Tawny Welch Governor, Rancho Conejo Colony

#### **Inland Empire Colony**

This "Compact Meeting" was held at Russo's Italian Kitchen on November 11, 2023. There were three events which we celebrated on this memorable day,

The signing of the Mayflower Compact 403 years ago in 1620 (November 11th O.S. and November 21st N.S.).

November 11, 2023, Veteran's Day Celebration of over 400 years of Thanksgiving

Members and guests welcomed our special guest and speaker, Scott Miller, CA State Deputy Governor General (DGG). New member, Jaina Ericson, was introduced and presented a new member gift. All veterans in attendance were asked to stand and were applauded in recognition and to thank them for their service to our country.



Ben Hobbins, IE Colony, Assistant Governor, Scott Miller, CA State DGG, Pam Mikkelsen, IE Colony, Governor John Russo, Jane Russo

To honor Compact Day, the colony was

asked by Governor, Pam Mikkelsen to remember our last meeting in September where they received a Mayflower cookie which represented the departure of the Mayflower from England. Then

everyone was asked to visualize sailing in the cramped quarters of the Mayflower for the past 2 months and signing the Mayflower Compact 403 years ago. Everyone was given a Pilgrim cookie in honor of our brave ancestors who on this long journey established the first permanent settlement in America as well as paving the way for the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

As recorded by our Newly Installed Recording Secretary, Judy Cunningham, "Cheryl Ralston and Wayne Staples shared their recent experiences at Deltshaven and London. While at Delshaven in the Netherlands, they visited the marker commemorating the port where the Speedwell had embarked with 47 Pilgrims. They also visited the Pilgrim Father's Church. While In London, they visited the Mayflower Pub (the oldest pub on the river Thames). This establishment is located where the Mayflower docked at the orders of Captain Jones to avoid paying local taxes.



Jaina Ericson, New Member

Cheryl and Wayne signed a registry book at the bar for patrons related to the Mayflower passengers".







Compact Day celebration Pilgrim Cookies

250 Project, Ben Hobbins, Scott Miller

Judy Cummingham, Rec. Sec

Everyone enjoyed the delicious traditional Thanksgiving dinner, which was prepared for us by John and Jane Russo, owners of Russo' Italian Kitchen where we have our meetings. Following Lunch, Ben Hobbins presented Scott Miller, DGG a certificate commemorating the partnership between the Sons of the American Revolution and the California Mayflower Society for the "American 250 Project" which in 2026 will celebrate the 250th year Anniversary of the American Revolution.

The special speaker for Compact Day was Scott Miller, CA State Deputy Governor General who presented "400 Years of Thanksgiving – How our American Holiday Came to Be". Scott is a descendant of William Bradford. He created this fantastic video detailing to story of the Pilgrims and the history of the first Thanksgiving to the present. Scott did an excellent job in creating this video which I feel that the entire Mayflower Society would love to see. Thank you, Scott, looking forward to future videos.

Pam Mikkelsen Inland Empire Colony, Governor

#### Sequoia Colony

California Deputy Governor North and Sequoia Colony Membership Chair Diane Douglass called the fall luncheon meeting of the Sequoia Colony to order on Saturday November 18, 2023 at the beautiful Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park, California. There were 27 attendees.



Sue Ross & Diane Douglas

The Ancestral Roll Call, taken by Colony Secretary Melissa Dyrdahl, recorded a total of 64 proven descendants from 23 Mayflower passengers. After lunch, Sue Ross regent of the Los Gatos Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), presented information about the history of the DAR. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the DAR has over 190,000 members nationally. The state organization's theme is growing together in friendship and service to God, home, and county. Sue spoke of the numerous opportunities for DAR members to become involved in philanthropic work and service to others.

In 2024 the Sequoia Colony will be meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup>, and November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our next meeting (March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024) will be our annual joint meeting with the San Francisco Colony.

Sharon Winslow Erickson Sequoia Colony governor

#### **Orange County Colony**

Our Compact Day was held on November 18th, 2023. We had over 74 members attend and 7

were brand new members. Welcome to David P. Andrew, Sharon Bryant, Deborah Huffman -Mirib, Susan Lamoureux, Alyson Slach, Julie Staudinger and Julie Youngberg. Our speakers from Massachusetts, Karen Rinaldo and Kevin Doyle, did the presentation of "A Gift to the Nation" the painting and how it inspired a book. Ms. Rinaldo described the commissioned, only historically accurate painting of The First Thanksgiving 1621. The painting inspired the book, "In the Wake of the Mayflower", co-authored by Karen and Kevin.



New members listed above Nancy Konkolewski on right, Lisa on Left

A few members with Nancy and I gave Karen

Kevin Doyle, Lisa Shaw, & Karen Rinaldo

and Kevin a tour of our San Juan Mission, Los Rios Street, a park for the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians that has a village of Indian culture. We took them to see the Richard Dana statue in Dana Point and a drive through downtown Laguna Beach.

Our new topic for our Scholarship is on our website for your information and is due March 1st, 2024. The teachers in our colony have been busy going into classrooms and teaching about the Pilgrim story. We provide them with educational books, the Pilgrim Story Bracelets, created by Nancy



Konkolewski, and necklaces for them to take home.



Alyson Slach



Billie Mitchell

Our next meeting is February 24th, 2024, and we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary on April 20th, 2024.

Lisa Shaw Orange County Colony, Governor

#### Los Angeles Colony

The Los Angeles Colony met for our Compact Day Celebration at the Tam O'Shanter on Los Feliz Blvd on November 11. We had a good turnout of thirty-eight for a very nice luncheon and program. I introduced dignitaries in attendance including past California Society Governor Donna Cole, California Society Counselor Erica Hahn, past LA Colony Governor Cal Cahoon, past LA Colony Governor Franklin Smith, Orange County Colony Governor Lisa Shaw, LA Colony Member and Secretary General of the Society of Colonial Wars James McHargue. I also introduced the LA Colony Board of Assistants. This was the first LA Colony meeting attended by my wife. Marguerite, and my daughter, Danielle (and both said afterwards they would attend future luncheons). I introduced and welcomed new members, Jim Vejvoda, Michelle Boskin, and Constance Forslund, to the LA Colony. They were given a 2020 Rose Parade Mayflower Float T-Shirt and special bookmarks prepared by Assistant Governor Jan Dougall.

The invocation was given by Elder Cynthia Carver Svezia and the Pledge of Allegiance by Captain Kimberlee Bradford. The minutes from our April 22, 2023, meeting at the FamilySearch Library were read by Secretary Sharon Brewster and approved by acclamation. Treasurer Susan Daniels gave the Treasurer's Report. Elder Cynthia Carver Svezia gave the Necrology Report where the passing of colony member Glyndon Hopping was noted. I gave an introduction on the background of the Mayflower Compact and read aloud the Compact. Assistant Governor Jan Dougall and I conducted the Roll Call of Mayflower Passengers with William LA Colony Compact Day with Gov. Dr. Robert Lincoln, Bradford best represented with nine descendants followed by William Brewster and Stephen Hopkins each with seven descendants in attendance.



new members Michelle Boskin, Jim Vejvoda, and Constance Forslund, and Asst. Gov. Jan Dougall.

Captain Kimberlee Bradford gave a brief history of the Tam O'Shanter especially its ties to the entertainment business. Elder Cynthia Carver gave a blessing for the meal and the meeting broke for lunch.

After lunch, we heard a very informative and comprehensive talk by author Donna Watkins, on "Law and Order in Plymouth Colony: From the Scrooby Covenant, to the Mayflower Compact, to Pilgrim Watchfulness". She traced the group of Separatists of Scrooby Manor as they looked for a place where they could worship as they wished but also maintain some control of their society. Her talk built on this history as a background for the Mayflower Compact and the subsequent Plymouth colony's "Pilgrim Watchfulness". Pilgrim Watchfulness was their belief that each member of the society was not only responsible for themselves but also for monitoring their neighbors to keep these neighbors from straying from the community's religious beliefs. Donna Watkins is the author of two books about Plymouth Colony: Diverse Gashes: Governor William Bradford, Alice Bishop, and the Murder of Martha Clark, Plymouth Colony, 1648, and Weaker Vessels, the Women and Children of Plymouth Colony. Attendees bought all the copies of her books that she had brought with her to the meeting.

The reading of the Pilgrims' Pledge was led by CMC Heather Porter. A Benediction was given by Elder Cynthia Carver Svezia. The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting of the Los Angeles Colony at the FamilySearch Library in March or April. Details to be emailed to colony members early next year.

Dr. Robert Lincoln, Ph.D. Los Angeles Colony, Governor

#### San Joaquin Valley Colony

Our new slate of officers for 2024 (Executive Committee) were installed at our last meeting, November 4, 2023 at the beautiful Sunnyside Country Club in Fresno. The meeting was led by

Governor-Dianna Saario and was attended by 22 members and guests. At the conclusion of our Compact meeting the members and guests were delighted to hear from the distinguished guest speaker and author Caleb Johnson.

Caleb Johnson presented us with a slideshow about "The Strangers," that was entertaining and informative.



Compact Meeting November 4, 2023



Guest speaker and author Caleb Johnson

Several of his books were available for sale which were made even more special as he was there to sign them.

At our next luncheon meeting, our featured speaker, will be Donna Watkins author of two books about Plymouth Colony: *Diverse Gashes: Governor William Bradford, Alice Bishop, and the Murder of Martha Clark, Plymouth Colony, 1648;* and *Weaker Vessels, The Women and Children of* 

**Plymouth Colony.** This meeting is set for June 8, 2024 (location to be determined).

At the June 8<sup>th</sup> luncheon our **San Joaquin Valley Colony** is looking forward to highlighting past members, remembering key events, and hearing stories from forgotten days, in celebration of our **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**.

Mark Storch San Joaquin Valley Colony, Secretary



#### **Foothill Colony**

Foothill Colony had a very successful Compact Day on Sunday, November 12, with over 45 in attendance. Deputy Governor General Scott Miller shared about "400 Years of Thanksgiving – How Our American Holiday Came To Be." We feasted on Mullins' Lemon Chicken, Bradford's

Tri-Tip, Mary's Mashed Potatoes, Elizabeth's Coleslaw, Eleanor's Beans, Susanna's Medley Salad, Priscilla's Carrot Cake and Constance's Brownies as homage to our Pilgrim forefathers and foremothers. New members Tom Adams and Sherry LaCom were greeted and presented with Foothill Colony coffee mugs.

Our next meeting will be held Sunday, April 14, 2024 in Pasadena. Foothill Colony will learn about some of the activities at the General Society of Mayflower Descendants from Former Governor General Lea Sinclair Filson, who will join us via ZOOM from Plymouth, Massachusetts. Lea is currently the President of the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse Charitable Trust and will share information on the plans



Governor Carole Curran and CMC Erica Hahn present Foothill Colony mugs to new members Sherry La Com and Tom Adams.

for an exciting new public venue in the heart of Plymouth to teach about our Pilgrims and the Mayflower, the Mayflower Meetinghouse!



Lea Sinclair Filson, Presidens of the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse Charitable Trust

We will also be having a unique fundraiser called "Division of Décor 2024," a silent auction with a Pilgrim twist. After the Pilgrims arrived, subsequent ships brought livestock, along with additional colonists. Cows and goats were brought on the ships *Anne* and *Jacob*. By 1627, they decided to distribute the livestock, for safekeeping, among one another through a lottery system. Called the "Division of

Cattle 1627," the colonists were divided into twelve companies consisting of about 12-13 people per company. This is a very important document because it names all the members of each household, including the names of women and children, making it essentially a complete census of Plymouth in1627.

In the spirit of the Division of Cattle 1627, Foothill Colony invites you to come to the April meeting and bring Pilgrim or Thanksgiving décor to donate to the silent auction "Division of Décor 2024." Attendees will bid on the items they would like to take home for safekeeping. The highest bidder will be the winner of the item. Suggestions include new (or gently used) Pilgrim or Thanksgiving decorations, something homemade, a Mayflower porch flag or jigsaw puzzle, wine basket, baked goods or even a GSMD hat. Anything related to the Pilgrims, Thanksgiving, Mayflower or autumn would work. Be creative and think big as the big winners will be the California Mayflower Scholarship Fund and the Mayflower Meetinghouse. Unsold items will either go home with the donor, or be donated. For more information, visit the Foothill Colony page on camayflower.org or contact the Governor.

Carole Curran, Foothill Colony, Governor

#### Mother Lode Colony

Happy New Year to you all! We all share the mission of preserving our ancestors' history, by educating ourselves and future generations in the history of America. We hope to see more members attend our 2024 meetings. Our colony donated \$400. to the California Mayflower Scholarship fund, in April, 2023 to honor outgoing Governor, Elizabeth Ware. Our Compact Day Luncheon Meeting program and participants were our own members. Tracy Shaw-Zimmerman welcomed



attendees with name tags. Elder, Helen Mac Laren, led us in prayer, ancestor roll and gave her report on contact with members. Carl Olson and Sharon Melberg-Scherr facilitated the program, a panel of three members with ancestors who arrived on the Anne, in July 1623. The three panelists were Rachelle Yost, descendant of Miles Standish and 2nd wife Barbara; Patti Caraska, descendant of William Bradford and 2nd wife, Alice Carpenter Southworth; and Mary

J. Sayles, descendent of George Soule and Mary Beckett. Secretary Sharon and Assistant Governor, Carl, then asked volunteers to tell the story of their connection to their Mayflower ancestor and the passenger on the Anne, who connected them.

In the spirit of the season, Sylvia Dilgard, Treasurer, made a motion, and our colony unanimously voted to donate \$500.00 to the Mayflower Society Meetinghouse Fund, toward restoration of the

Mayflower Meetinghouse. The goal is to complete the restoration of the Mayflower Meetinghouse by the end of the Governor General Lisa Pennington's 2023 -2026 term. The "important foundational story" in America will be told at the Mayflower Meetinghouse. Following the program, Sylvia invited panel members, then membership, to select a Pilgrim book or DVD belonging to, Karri Samson, Historian, who passed away earlier this year. Her sister Betsy Samson-Andrews donated them. Betsy, has stepped in as His-



torian to help plan our Colony Anniversary in 2024. We hope the donation by Betsy Samson-Andrews, will encourage other colony members to donate books to be offered to our membership at future colony luncheon meetings, where they are appreciated!



Our 2024 February and April meetings will be held at the Lodge Restaurant in Roseville, Placer Co. We have reserved a private room with seating for forty persons. Membership dues are due by December 31, 2023 for 2024 dues, in the amount \$75.00 per person. A new member orientation and training meeting will be offered again, in February. We need a minimum of ten persons to reserve a space for meeting. Sign up at our meeting. I received a thank you letter dated November 28, 2023, from Lea Sinclair Filson, President, National Pilgrim

Memorial Meetinghouse Charitable Trust, "for our generosity and continuing support of the National Pilgrim Memorial Meeting House. Your support makes the preservation of this historic building possible". Be sure to read the Mayflower Quarterly Magazine Winter 2023.

Catherine Graham Mother Lode Colony, Governor

# State News

#### State Historian's Report

Happy New Year! The GSMD has so much in store for us here in the Historian department. Lots of updates and changes, as well as new features that I'm excited to share. Starting this year, will be the Passenger Inheritance Program (PIP). This was featured in an article in the Winter 2023 edition of The Mayflower Quarterly by the Historian General. The long and short of it is that it's a program that allows you to pay a flat fee of \$150 to "inherit" passengers that may have been proven by your parents, grandparents, or siblings. You must already be a member to qualify and only one family member can inherit from that individual's approved passengers. (Siblings couldn't share the inheritance for their parent's approved passengers, only one could take advantage of the PIP service). You can read more in the Quarterly on pg. 16 and more details will become available soon.

The Indexing platform program is still underway and has been making great progress! As this project continues, it helps with the overall functionality of the Society and allows us as Historians to work on applications in the near future more effectively and efficiently. Once completed, it will then create a new "easy app" generation for Historians to quickly get applications in order and ensure their accuracy. If you haven't signed up and would like to help, please email GSMDCertify@themayflowersociety.org.

On a celebratory note, is the approval of a new member's application for Harriett Briggs Greenacre. Harriet was approved by our State Society on her birthday, November 7th, on which she turned 106 years old! Her application was then submitted and approved by the General Society on November 17th, 2023, for passenger John Howland. Her son, Terry, was approved a month later. They are both with the Mother Lode Colony. Congratulations to you both! The last of the certificates for approved applications from 2023 were mailed out and should have already arrived at your doorsteps. These are processed by me personally and are done in batches. I'm really pleased with the new Pennington Administration design and love how we can now fit longer names on the certificate without compromising the overall aesthetic. We've already had to order more from our first batch! I hope that we'll have as a prosperous year of applications as we did in 2023. For the year of 2023, we did really well with our turnaround time in submitting and getting applications approved. Please remember that Silver Supplementals are now \$160 as of January 1st. Year-to-date, most applications for colonies were from: Orange County, Mother Lode, & Santa Barbara. In 2023, we had 165 new member and 197 supplementals approved. Applications submitted between October 1st & December 31st: 44 new member and 64 supplementals. October 1st – December 29th, 2023. 33 new applications and 66 supplementals were approved.

Mandy Dunkle California State Historian

#### Junior Membership Report

The California Mayflower Society has offered honorary Junior memberships for over twenty-four years. In 2023 thirty-eight new Juniors were sponsored by society members from nine California colonies. Members from Orange County colony had the most sponsorships with eight. New Juniors range in age from newborn to fifteen years old. 334 Juniors were mailed a greeting in November. The California Mayflower Juniors newsletter continues to be emailed quarterly. In 2023 California juniors participated in parades and Compact Day meetings. The most recent newsletter included an article written by a California Junior. Passing along our Mayflower ancestor heritage is so important. A big thank you goes to our 2023 sponsors.

Amy Conboy Juniors Membership Chair



# 2024 Scholarship Competition The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California, Inc.

1st Place \$5,500

2nd Place \$3,500

3rd Place \$2,500

4th Place \$1,000

#### Requirements:

Completed application

Write a letter from one of your Mayflower ancestors to their family in England or Holland. Describe the contributions of the Mayflower women in the colony.

Personal essay (not to exceed 500 words)

Two letters of Recommendation: Academic & Character



#### Eligibility:

High School Seniors (academic year 2023-2024) who are descendants from a passenger on the Mayflower in 1620. Scholarship applicants must be either a member of the California Mayflower Society or be descended from a parent, grandparent, great grandparent, aunt, uncle, grand aunt, grand uncle, great-grand-aunt or great-grand-uncle who is a living life member or dues paying member of the California Mayflower Society. There are no restrictions regarding the state of residence of the scholarship



For application and instructions, scan code or visit https://www.camayflower.org/society-scholarships.html

#### **Elected Officers & Board of Assistants**

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Sequoia Sharon W. Erickson Sharon.winslow.erickson@gmail.com

#### Are You Moving?

Be sure to notify our State Membership Secretary, Kim Pike at: membershipsecretary@camayflower.org

She will notify your governor and everyone else who needs to know. This will enable you to receive your California Mayflower, Mayflower Quarterly and other mailings in a timely fashion.

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#### California Mayflower

Next deadline: April 01, 2024 . Send all text and photo submissions to Ray and Gail at: newseditor@camayflower.org

Submissions to the California Mayflower Quarterly must be in digital format, either in the body of an email or as a Microsoft Word document attachment. Queries relevant to Mayflower families will be published pending space availability. PLEASE limit them to 75 words. Include your membership number and contact information.

NOTE the deadlines: They will remain the same year after year. Submissions prior to the deadlines are always appreciated.

Spring issue	April 1st 2024
Summer issue	July 1st 2024
Fall issue	October 1st 2024
Winter issue	January 2nd 2025

Visit the California Society of Mayflower Descendants on the web at: www.camayflower.org or www.camayflower.com

Visit the General Society of Mayflower Descendants at: www.themayflowersociety.org

#### CA Mayflower Board of Assistants 2024 Meeting Schedule Mark your calendar to save these dates for future meetings:

Winter 2024 - January 19 & 20 - (Virtual) Spring 2024 - March 15 & 16 - (North) Summer 2024 - June 14 & 15 - (Virtual) Fall 2024 - October 18 & 19 - (South)

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# New Members from Oct 03, 2023 to Dec 15, 2023

#### **ALAMEDA COLONY**

Carolyn Poetzsch GS# 105044 CA# 10581 12th from John Howland

Bobbett Thornhill GS# 105158 CA# 10595 11<sup>th</sup> from John Alden

Susan Clough GS# 105177 CA# 10598 13th from Stephen Hopkins

#### **FOOTHILL COLONY**

Christine De Rosa GS# 105119 CA# 10591 13th from William White

#### LOS ANGELES COLONY

Bernard Van Wie, Jr. GS# 105074 CA# 10588 12th from Richard Warren

Brandon Millan GS# 105140 CA# 10594 13th from Stephen Hopkins

#### MONTEREY BAY COLONY

June McBride GS# 104913 CA# 10568 12th from John Alden

Jessica (McBride) Jarrety GS# 104914 CA# 10569 13th from John Alden

Roswin Flint GS# 105072 CA# 10586 10th from William Bradford

#### MOTHER LODE COLONY

Moira Bentley GS# 104929 CA# 10571 11<sup>th</sup> from William Bradford Harriet (Briggs) Greenacre GS# 105043 CA# 10580 10th from John Howland

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Terry Greenacre GS# 105179 CA# 10599 11th from John Howland

Patricia Nunn GS# 105073 CA# 10587 11<sup>th</sup> from William Brewster

Julianne Downing GS# 105139 CA# 10593 13th from Edward Doty

Aubry Byrne GS# 105176 CA# 10597 14<sup>th</sup> from John Alden

Janie Glidden GS# 104656 CA# 10529 9th from John Alden

#### ORANGE COUNTY COLONY

Russell Gerber GS# 104944 CA# 10573 11<sup>th</sup> from Francis Cooke

Jeff Lilley GS# 105013 CA# 10578 12<sup>th</sup> from Constance Hopkins

Virginia Krone GS# 105021 CA# 10579 11<sup>th</sup> from George Soule

Gilbert L. Gerhardt GS# 105118 CA# 10590 12th from Thomas Rogers

#### RANCHO CONEJO COLONY

Taya Mitrofanis GS# 104975 CA# 10574 11<sup>th</sup> from William Bradford

#### REDWOOD EMPIRE COLONY

Terry (Lathrop) Abblett GS# 105023 CA# 10582 12th from William White Toni Lathrop-Lee GS# 105024 CA# 10583 12th from William White

Christopher Slowe GS# 105019 CA# 10591 12th from Myles Standish

Kathleen Slowe GS# 105020 CA# 10592 11<sup>th</sup> from Myles Standish

#### SAN DIEGO COLONY

Joan Baird GS# 104928 CA# 10570 12<sup>th</sup> from William Brewster

Rachel Johnson GS# 104996 CA# 10576 12th from Thomas Rogers

Sandra Keller GS# 104997 CA# 10577 11<sup>th</sup> from Thomas Rogers

Russell Rogers GS# 105025 CA# 10584 11th from Thomas Rogers

#### SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA COLONY

Kiersten Dunbar GS# 104894 CA# 10567 12th from Richard Warren

#### SAN JOAQUIN COLONY

Scott Wachlin GS# 105026 CA# 10585 13th from William White

#### SANTA BARBARA COLONY

Katherine Field GS# 104995 CA# 10575 12th from John Howland

Diane (Coyne) McClenathen GS# 105179 CA# 10600 13th from Francis Eaton

#### SEQUOIA COLONY

Greta Gregory GS# 104930 CA# 10572 11<sup>th</sup> from John Howland

# Supplementals from Oct 06, 2023 to Dec 29, 2023

#### ALAMEDA COLONY

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Jean Bradbury GS# 104296 CA# 10477 14<sup>th</sup> from James Chilton

Linda Proaps GS# 104296 CA# 10477 11th from William White

#### **FOOTHILL COLONY**

Eileen (Hatch) Roberts GS# 100644 CA# 10034 12th from Richard Warren

Maureen Fedail GS# 103339 CA# 10369 13th from John Howland 13th from Elizabeth Tilley 14th from Joan (Hurst) Tilley

Jane Wong
GS# 86063 CA# 8757
11<sup>th</sup> from Mary Allerton
11<sup>th</sup> from Elizabeth Tilley
12<sup>th</sup> from John Tilley
12<sup>th</sup> from Joan (Hurst) Tilley
12<sup>th</sup> from Mary (Norris) Allerton

#### **INLAND EMPIRE COLONY**

Susan Maxfield Christopher GS# 81106 CA# 8312 11th from Love Brewster 11th from Priscilla Mullins 12th from Mrs. Mary Brewster 12th from William Mullins

William Frederick GS# 91333 CA# 9150 12<sup>th</sup> from John Alden

#### LOS ANGELES COLONY

Penny Hallin GS# 100178 CA# 9969 12<sup>th</sup> from John Howland Douglas Gilham GS# 101366 CA# 10105 14th from Stephen Hopkins

Annette Weiskircher GS# 97659 CA# 9681 10th from Peter Brown

Nathaniel Weiskircher GS# 97660 CA# 9682 11<sup>th</sup> from Peter Brown

Barbara Gorham Malowney GS# 102951 CA# 10331 11<sup>th</sup> from Elizabeth Tilley

Lynn (O'Farrell) Whealton GS# 104362 CA# 10490 11<sup>th</sup> from Giles Hopkins 12<sup>th</sup> from Mrs. Mary Brewster 12<sup>th</sup> from Stephen Hopkins 13<sup>th</sup> from Joan (Hurst) Tilley

Barbara Fenton GS# 102829 CA# 10311 13th from Constance Hopkins 14th from William Brewster 14th from Thomas Rogers

#### **ORANGE COUNTY COLONY**

Tricia Tremper GS# 103025 CA# 10345 12th from Stephen Hopkins 12th from Myles Standish 13th from James Chilton 13th from Richard Warren

Charity Kuczynski GS# 104548 CA# 10520 12th from Stephen Hopkins 12th from Elizabeth (Fisher) Hopkins

David Hale GS# 80463 CA# 8246 11<sup>th</sup> from Elizabeth Tilley 12<sup>th</sup> from John Tilley 12<sup>th</sup> from Joan (Hurst) Tilley Debra Morrison
GS# 96962 CA# 9588
10th from Joseph Rogers
11th from Constance Hopkins
12th from Thomas Rogers
12th from Mrs. Mary Brewster
12th from Francis Cooke

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12<sup>th</sup> from Elizabeth (Fisher) Hopkins 12<sup>th</sup> from Stephen Hopkins

Eric Jasper GS# 103238 CA# 10363 12th from Constance Hopkins 13th from Degory Priest

#### RANCHO CONEIO COLONY

Tawny Godin Welch GS# 95877 CA# 9518 13th from William Brewster

Lorraine Kocen GS# 71905 CA# 7352 13th from Elizabeth Tilley 14th from John Tilley 14th from Joan (Hurst) Tilley

Nicole Goulart GS# 95603 CA# 9494 14th from Priscilla Mullins

#### REDWOOD EMPIRE COLONY

Kenneth O'Farrell GS# 104361 CA# 10489 11<sup>th</sup> from Giles Hopkins 12<sup>th</sup> from Mrs. Mary Brewster 12<sup>th</sup> from Stephen Hopkins 13<sup>th</sup> from Joan (Hurst) Tilley

#### SAN DIEGO COLONY

Dianne Sweeny GS# 80100 CA# 8208 13<sup>th</sup> from Priscilla Mullins 14<sup>th</sup> from William Mullins

#### **SAN FRANCISCO COLONY**

Marlene Hilscher GS# 100179 CA# 9970 13<sup>th</sup> from Myles Standish

#### **SAN JOAQUIN COLONY**

Mark Storch GS# 99312 CA# 9854 11th from Stephen Hopkins 11th from Francis Cooke

#### SANTA BARBARA COLONY

Tami Wilkening GS# 65905 CA# 6669 11<sup>th</sup> from John Alden 11<sup>th</sup> from Priscilla Mullins 12<sup>th</sup> from William Mullins 12<sup>th</sup> from Love Brewster 13<sup>th</sup> from Henry Samson

Jay Williams GS# 81723 CA# 8379 13th from John Howland 13th from Elizabeth Tilley 12th from Joan (Hurst) Tilley



#### **ALAMEDA COLONY**

Barbara Ann Bryant March 28, 2023

Enid Stephanie Williams March 26, 2023

#### **INLAND EMPIRE COLONY**

Robert Curtis Nickerson October 28, 2023

#### **LOS ANGELES COLONY**

Dr. James Bernard Breckinridge June 12, 2022

John Warnock Hooker April 17, 2022

Glyndon Allen Hopping Jan. 6, 2002 Muriel Evelyn Wachlin

#### **MONTEREY BAY COLONY**

Virginia Chase

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#### **MOTHER LODE COLONY**

Dixie Christenson August 24, 2023

James William De Lorimier August 17, 2023

#### **ORANGE COUNTY COLONY**

Mrs. Robert Clark

Donna Lee Grogan September 22, 2023

Kathleen R, Jevons

#### RANCHO CONEJO COLONY

Margaret Beth Blankenship November 29, 2023

#### REDWOOD EMPIRE COLONY

Alice Lillian Clayton Friesen July 29, 2023

Wallace Kelley July 18, 2023

#### SAN DIEGO COLONY

Albert Raymond Eaton May 17, 2023

Phyliss Irene Riley July 11, 2023

Robert Storer

#### **SEQUOIA COLONY**

Greta Lois Gregory Nov. 12, 2023

Gene Grice

Donald Wakefield

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