

*The General Society of Mayflower
Descendants*



MAYFLOWER GUARD
HANDBOOK

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Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to provide general information about the Mayflower Guard, its history, purpose and operating procedures. The handbook covers a brief history of the common 17th century arms and armor that influenced the choice of arms used by the Pilgrims as well as the origins of the history and roots of the Plymouth Colony Militia that emerged just after the arrival of the Pilgrims in the New World in November 1620. A basic knowledge of history and background of the arms and armor of the Pilgrims is an essential part of being a member of the Mayflower Guard. The handbook also describes the structure of the Guard and details the arms, armor, and apparel to be worn by guardsmen. The handbook also covers basic commands to be used by the Mayflower Guard. This handbook is also intended to serve as guidance for member societies of the GSMD that may wish to establish and operate Mayflower Guard units of their own.

History of the Arms and Armor of the Pilgrims

When the *Mayflower* arrived off Cape Cod in November of 1620, the passengers were prepared for their protection by the arms and armor that they brought with them to defend their new planation. They also brought with them the traditions and experience of the Dutch militia and town guards and that of the trained bands of the English militia.

Dutch Influence -In Leiden and many other cities in the Netherlands every male between the ages of 16 and 60 was expected to serve in one of the militia companies and receive military training.¹ They were also expected to furnish their own arms and armor. When English separatists under the leadership of Pastor John Robinson and William Brewster moved to Leiden in 1609, they and the male members of the congregation were expected and did join the militia in Leiden. Like other citizens of Leiden members of the Pilgrim Church were tradesmen such as textile workers, silk weavers, tailors, printers, and ribbon makers. They were not soldiers and needed to be trained in using the weapons of the day, swords, pikes, and muskets and become citizen soldiers.

The key to standardizing tactics was the need to standardize the training of forces in the use of arms. Prince Maurice of Orange and Nassau, the captain-general of the Dutch forces engaged the engraver/painter Jacob DeGheyn to develop an illustrated military training manual which was published in the year 1609. DeGheyn through his illustrations provides instructions for handling muskets and pikes together with standardized commands for drill masters. Known in its English translation as *The Exercise of Arms*,² the work quickly spread throughout Europe and England. This work, and the tactics of the Dutch that went with it, influenced warfare throughout the 17th Century including the Thirty Years War on the Continent and the English Civil War and that of early colonial America. Today it serves as a training manual for reenactors and the Mayflower Guard.

¹ ⁸Joke Kadux and Eduard van de Bilt. *Newcomers in an Old City: The American Pilgrims in Leiden 1609-1620* (Second Edition). Leiden: Uitgeverij Burgersdijk and Nermans, 2001.

² Jacob De Gheyn II, *The Exercise of Armes*. Zancia, Italy: Soldiershop Publishing, 2016

DeGheyn's illustrations give us an accurate representation of the types of arms and armor that was used but also illustrates how they were used. In the first illustration, we see the "give fire" command with the match lit at both ends. The helmet is known as the cabasset. Notice the sword. Everyone carried a sword regardless whether they carried a musket or a pike. The second illustration shows a musketeer with his musket and wearing a bandolier with what looks like little bottles hanging from it. These bottles contained the exact amount of powder for one shot of the musket. They were called apostles. A bandolier had twelve apostles attached.



DeGheyn's illustration of just presentation give fire a Musketeer with apostles

In addition to musketeers there were armed infantry men carrying long spear-like poles called pikes. The typical 17th century pike was 16 feet in length. Pikemen would be out in front of the musketeers and provide protection. All pikemen wore armor that included breast and back plates and attachments below the waist to protect the groin and thighs called tassets. The pikeman's armor was the standard for infantry men of the 17th century throughout Europe and in England. DeGheyn's manual provided specific instructions on the drill and order of arms for pikemen, just like the musketeer. In this illustration, the pikemen holds the pike able to defend against horse mounted troops.



DeGheyn's illustration of charge your pike versus horse

Militia had to be trained in the use of all the arms of the day, the sword, the musket, and the pike. The various militia companies had a mixture of each and it was very beneficial to have everyone cross-trained in all the arms.

Arms and Armor in North America - In both the Dutch and English armies in the 17th century, breastplates were worn only by pikemen. But at Jamestown, the type of warfare with the Native Americans in Virginia required a change. In 1611 the governor, Sir Thomas Dale, observed that too many of the men were dying from being hit by Indian arrows. He ordered that all men, even those carrying muskets, to wear plate armor. The Jamestown Rediscovery project has recently uncovered a well-preserved piece of pikeman's armor.³

We know what type of arms and armor were used by the Pilgrims in first years in the new world.

Monday, the 13th of November (1620) sixteen men were set out with every man his musket, sword, and corselet, under the conduct of Captain Miles Standish, unto whom was adjoined, for counsel and advice, William Bradford, Stephen Hopkins, and Edward Tilley.”⁴

This quote from *Mourt's Relation* tells us that the men who went exploring on Cape Cod wore armor, had

³ Jamestown Rediscovery *Breastplate Object number – 2856-JR 2017 Jamestown: Historic Jamestowne Foundation* www.historicjamestowne.org/selected-artifacts/breastplate (retrieved on 22 June 2017)

⁴ Dwight B. Heath (ed.) *Mourt's Relation: A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth* Bedford, MA: Applewood Books, 1963, p. 19.

swords and muskets. Clearly the lessons of Jamestown had been communicated through the Virginia Company to those planning what would become Plymouth Plantation. When authors of *Mourt's Relation* refer to arming they meant putting on armor. The crosslet refers to the pikeman's armor. An unarmed man was someone who was not wearing armor. What emerged in North America in the early colonial period was essentially an armed musketeer which was different than the unarmed musketeers in both England and in Europe at the time.

There is no mention of the use of pikes on these early expeditions of the Pilgrims. The work of Harold L Peterson of the National Park Service provides support of the arms and armor that was used in early Colonial America. Peterson's work while published in the 1950s still is the best source information of its type. Peterson notes that the use of the standard 16-foot pike proved to be extremely impractical in the woods of North America. A shorter version of the pike of 10 -12 feet in length was preferred. These pikes were known as half pikes. The pike was more of a defensive weapon and were used throughout early colonial years of the 17th century. The Pilgrims would have practiced pike maneuvers straight out of the DeGheyn manual.

Peterson also describes the process of protecting pikeman's armor for field use.

Most modern Americans tend to think of armor in terms of brightly polished steel. Sometimes it was finished bright, but by the 17th century it was more often black, brown, or dark blue. This was especially true of those suits destined for active service in the field. A brightly polished piece of armor needed constant care to guard it from rust and maintain a good appearance. Blackening, russeting or bluing it helped protect it and made it easier to maintain. The black finishes were sometimes obtained using soot and oil, sometimes by paint. The russet and blue finishes were produced by artificial oxidation.⁵

When you visit Plimoth Plantation you can see this type of blackened armor in displayed in many houses. There is a video demonstration on how to blacken or blue one's pikeman's armor on YouTube at the

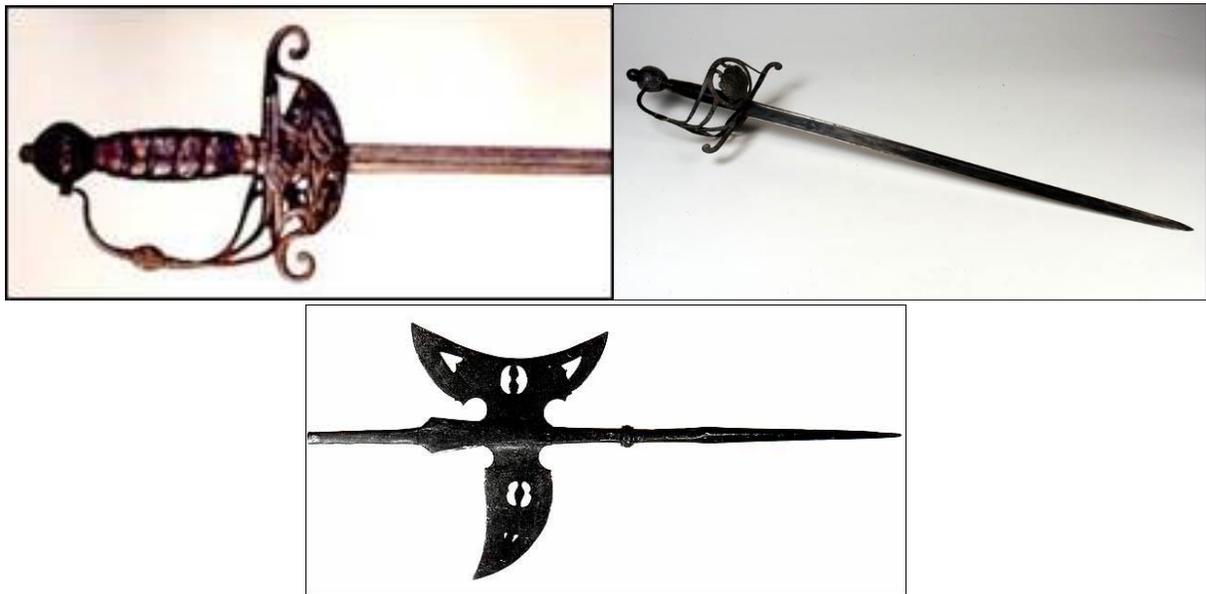


Before and after blackened pikeman's armor

⁵Harold L. Peterson. *Arms & Armor of the Pilgrims*. Plymouth: Plimoth Plantation, Inc. and the Pilgrim Society, 1957

Maryland Mayflower Channel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gz0Psb0EPgk>

There is archeological evidence to support the type and characteristics of the arms and armor of the Pilgrims. We have archeological evidence from both Jamestown and various sites in Massachusetts that tells us the type of arms and armor that was used. In the collections of Pilgrim Hall, we have well preserved pieces like Miles Standish's rapier, Governor John Carver's sword, John Alden's halberd, and the tassets of John Howland's pikeman's armor to guide us.



Miles Standish Rapier, John Carver's Sword, John Alden's halberd

Organization of Plymouth Militia - The Mayflower Compact established the framework for governance of Plymouth. However, it did not mention the militia or military command. Even though Miles Standish was an experienced military man, he really had no formal authority to have military command of the members of the plantation. When the Mayflower arrived off Cape Cod in November of 1620 there were 45 men eligible for military service for the defense of the new plantation. Once settled in Plymouth by mid-February 1621 there were only about 23 men left alive that could be considered fit for military duty. When faced with the presence of Native Americans in significant numbers outside the settlement on February 16, 1621, the need to create a formal militia structure was obvious. The following passage from *Mourt's Relation* is of interest relative the formation of a more formal military structure for Plymouth.

Friday, the 16th (1621), was a fair day, but the northerly wind continued, which continued the frost. This day after noon one of our people being a-fowling, and having taken a stand by a creek-side in the reeds, about a mile and a half from our plantation, there came by him twelve Indians marching towards our plantation, and in the woods, he heard the noise of many more. He lay close till they were passed, and then with what speed he could he went home and gave the alarm, so the people abroad in the woods returned and armed themselves, but saw none of them; only toward the evening they made a great fire, about the place where they were first discovered. Captain Miles Standish and Francis Cook, being at work in the woods, coming home, left their tools behind them, but before they returned their tools were taken away by the savages. This coming of the savages gave us

occasion to keep more strict watch, and to make our pieces and furniture ready, which by the moisture and rain were out of temper.

Saturday, the 17th day, in the morning we called a meeting for the establishing of military orders among ourselves, and we chose Miles Standish our captain, and gave him authority of command in affairs.⁶

While Plymouth Colony did not formally pass a militia act until 1643, the first actual militia muster in New England began February 17, 1621. The election of Miles Standish as militia commander was very much in the Dutch tradition of the town guards and militia units. It was important in a Republic for the citizen soldiers to participate in the selection of the men who would lead them. It was also consistent with the congregational norms of the reformed religious beliefs not only in the Netherlands but within the Leiden Pilgrim congregation as well. February 17, 1621 has become known as Establishment Day. Thus, it is the date February 17, 1621 which marks the historical roots of the Mayflower Guard and establishes the time frame for the arms, armor, and apparel of the Mayflower Guard.

⁶ Heath *Mourt's Relation*: p. 49.

What is the Mayflower Guard?

In order to celebrate the rich history of the early defenders of the Plymouth in those early formative years of 1620 and 1621 it important to create a living history unit that makes those few defenders come alive. The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) has created the Mayflower Guard to serve as the ceremonial color guard and a living history unit for that purpose. The Guard is drawn from our society members who are willing to participate in the Guard at GSMD meetings and events. They must be appropriately dressed and equipped as were *Mayflower* passengers who formed the militia of the Pilgrims in 1620-1621. The Mayflower Guard visibly promotes the education and understanding of the Pilgrims through their historically correct arms, armor, and apparel.

The Mayflower Guard performs color ceremonies at GSMD Congress, Boards of Assistance Meetings, as well as other official ceremonies of the GSMD such as Pilgrims Progress and memorial ceremonies such as wreath laying as needed and required. The Mayflower Guard also serves as an honor guard for the Governor General on special occasions to serve as visible ambassadors for the GSMD. The Mayflower Guard is a visible public face of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Mayflower Guardsmen will provide an easily identifiable and colorful focal point at events. The arms and armor of the Guardsmen will invite children and spectators and potential members to come forward and ask questions about the Pilgrims.

Membership in the Mayflower Guard

Membership in the Mayflower Guard is open to all members of the GSMD both male and female who wish to participate in Guard activities. Consideration is also to given to spouses and significant others of GSMD members who wish to participate in the living history activities of the Guard and join the Guard. The non-members must have a close relationship to a Mayflower passenger and Society member.

Mayflower Guard in Member Societies

While the GSMD Mayflower Guard functions as the color and ceremonial Guard for the General Society, member Mayflower Societies are strongly encouraged to establish Mayflower Guard Units of their own. The information in this handbook can therefore serve as guidance to member societies as well as to the GSMD.

Command and Structure of the Mayflower Guard

The Mayflower Guard supports the duties and responsibilities of the GSMD Captain General under Article VI section 7

Captain General The Captain General shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him/her by the General Congress, General Board of Assistants, Executive Committee, and/or the Governor General, and act as Marshal at parades and on occasions of ceremony.

Under the Constitution and By-Laws of the GSMD, the Mayflower Guard is considered a committee. The Mayflower Guard reports to the GSMD Captain General who coordinates all activities of the Mayflower Guard. The Captain General is assisted in the operation of the Mayflower Guard by an individual known as Commander of the Mayflower Guard who is appointed by the Governor General to head the GSMD Mayflower Guard. The term of office of the Mayflower Guard Commander

coincides with the term of office of the officers of the society. A new Mayflower Guard Commander would have to be appointed or an incumbent reappointed with each term of officers. Should the Mayflower Guard Commander be unable to continue in command or incapable of command, a replacement would be appointed by the Governor General.

At the members' society level, a Mayflower Guard unit would likewise have a Commander appointed by the Governor of that member society and would report to the Captain of the member society. A Mayflower Guard unit, if it is established, would be considered part of the role of the member society's Captain. The color and flag duties that are part of the duties of the Captain General and the society captains do not change with the establishment of the Mayflower Guard but will require close coordination.

Role and Responsibility of the Captain General/Captain in Ceremonies and Parades -Consistent with the duties and responsibilities the Captain General/Captain shall be the master of ceremonies for presentation of colors, parades and for all events at which he or she is in attendance. For color ceremonies the Captain General/Captain would open the ceremony and call the Mayflower Guard to present the colors often from the podium. The Mayflower Guard Commander would then lead the Guard Unit in executing the color ceremony. In the case of parades, the Captain General/Captain in the role of Master of Ceremonies would lead the parade followed by the Mayflower Guard. In certain situations, or events, the Captain General/Captain may assume command of the Mayflower Guard for that event or ceremony.

The GSMD Mayflower Guard Committee

To ensure maximum coordination and operation of the Mayflower Guard, a committee of the GSMD known as the GSMD Mayflower Guard Committee has been established. This committee meets at each Congress and Board of Assistants meetings as well as periodic meetings as needed and required. The primary order of business at each meeting is to organize the Mayflower Guard for the various events that it must participate in during that meeting. Other items of business include reporting on events the Mayflower Guard has participated in since the previous meeting as well as discussing upcoming events and various safety, procedural and health issues. The committee also serves in an advisory role to both the Captain General and the Mayflower Guard Commander. The committee also addresses issues of coordination between the activities at the national GSMD level and that of the individual members society Mayflower Guard Units that have established and maintained by various member societies. The committee may also assist the Captain General in the planning and execution of parades and occasions of ceremony. All members of the Mayflower Guard are members of the Mayflower guard committee.

The Mayflower Guardsman

In order to provide a flow of information and communication among individual guardsmen and society guard units, a newsletter is published on a semiannual basis. *The Mayflower Guardsman* is the official newsletter of the Mayflower Guard. *The Mayflower Guardsman* is printed and distributed to every Member Society Captain for distribution to the various Member Society Guards' members. It is also uploaded to the GSMD website and can be found on the Mayflower Guard webpage.

Articles include reporting on various events that the Mayflower Guard has participated in over the previous six months and items of interest regarding the function of the Mayflower Guard. In addition, announcements of upcoming events and local points of contact are provided.

Formation of a Guard Unit

The optimal minimum number of individuals that form a Mayflower Guard Unit is six (6) to eight (8) individuals.

- At GSMD events, Two (2) to four (4) color bearers will carry the United States' National Flag, the Canadian National Flag, the Society of Europe Flag, and the General Society Flag
- For member society units, the number of color bearers would be three (3) for the National Flag, the member location flag, and the Society Flag
- Two (2) Musketeers will escort the color bearers
- Including a drummer is encouraged
- A unit may consist of only one musketeer and two to four color bearers. The unit commander in this situation would be the armed musketeer.

As the Mayflower Guard grows, the Guard Commander will march ahead of the National Colors separate from any other rank and carry a halberd as a symbol of his rank.

Use of Pikes -Pikes were used by the Plymouth Militia in the 1620/1621 period. The pikes were half pikes, 10 feet in length. There was often a mix of pikemen and musketeers in a ratio of two musketeers to one pikemen. Because of their size the use of pikes for indoor color ceremonies is discouraged. However, for outdoor events and parades and pilgrim progresses, the inclusion of pikemen carrying pikes can be an added attraction. Pikeman, if present should be armed with full pikeman's armor and carry a 10-foot half pike. It is highly recommended that the pikes be constructed in a sectional manner so they can be transported easily, including as checked luggage on an airplane.

Equipment -Flags, poles, indoor flag stands, and related items are available through varied sources. Mayflower Guard units are encouraged to purchase as much of equipment as possible from local sources. Since events are conducted both indoors and outdoors, the Mayflower Guard should endeavor to purchase flags that can withstand the elements when used at outdoor events such as parades.

In addition to indoor flag stands, the Color Guard should purchase or fabricate outdoor spike stands. These ground spike type may be fabricated from local sources using Rebar and pipe lengths of a diameter to allow insertion of the flag staff. When a Mayflower Guard is participating in an outdoor event, they are responsible for bringing outdoor ground spike stands for each flag that is brought.

At formal national events such as Congress and Board of Assistants Meetings, the Captain General will provide all flags and equipment necessary for the event.

At member society and any colony sponsored events, the host society or colony is responsible for providing the National, State, and Society flags and the related equipment. For the sake of uniformity, all colonies within a member society must purchase flag poles of the same height as those used by the member society. The most common flag pole length is seven (7) feet. While flag poles can be up to nine (9) feet, this length can become too difficult to carry outside in a moderate wind.

Transporting Arms and Armor - To be able to participate in some GSMD events such as Congress and Boards of Assistant Meetings, Guardsman may need to travel by air. Consideration therefore must be given to having muskets carried in FAA approved carrying cases. Because of the size of a matchlock musket, a 60-inch carrying case is required. Such cases are available. Armor can be easily packed in a large suitcase. There are drum cases available as well.

Financing the Unit - In general, apparel and accessories are purchased by the individual Mayflower Guardsman. Funding of the following Guard equipment should come from the member society through an allocation within the annual budget or through donations:

- Flags;
- Flag Poles;
- Flag Stands;
- Parade Banner;

Member societies may choose to purchase items such as sets pikeman's armor, helmets, matchlock muskets, bandolier with apostles, and a drum that can be used as a shared resource for its Mayflower Guard unit while apparel would be the responsibility of the individual guardsman.

Guardsman Arms and Armor When the Pilgrims landed the records of their early expeditions ashore indicate that all men had armor, swords, and muskets. Given this historical record, the Mayflower Guard will also be so equipped. The standard armor of the day was the Pikeman's armor. The most common helmet used by early English settlers both in Jamestown and Plymouth known as a cabasset. While the cabasset helmet was most common the morion and open-faced burgonet helmets were also used. The lobster tail burgonet helmet was introduced in the late 1630's and was common in the English Civil War but would not be appropriate for the 1620-1621 period. The swords that were carried were of two types, the thrusting rapier and the two-edged cutting sword. Examples of each are to be found in Pilgrim Hall Museum, Miles Standish's rapier, and Governor John Carver's sword. The most common musket was the matchlock. The ammunition for the matchlock was carried by a bandolier worn over the shoulder with 12 vessels containing powder, called apostles, attached. The picture shows the appearance of a fully armed and armored individual as they would have appeared in 1620/1621.



Arms and Armor of the Mayflower Guard

- Matchlock Musket (non-firing)
- Bandolier & 12 apostles for powder
- Sword or rapier with belt or baldric
- Pikeman's armor (Blackened)
- Cabasset Helmet

Armed and Unarmed Guardsmen - Armor was used during the first decade of Plymouth Colony. Gradually the use of armor declined with musketeers forgoing the plate armor. When armor was not used, the individual was referred to as unarmed, however they still carried a sword and musket. For the Mayflower Guard, color bearers may be unarmed but helmet and sword are recommended. Musketeers and the Guard Commander should be always be armed with pikeman's armor. A drummer, if present, would be unarmed and not carrying a sword.



Guardsman's Clothing

The basic clothing for men would be:

- Shirt
- Doublet
- Breeches
- Stockings
- Lachet shoes
- Hat either broad brimmed or flat hat

The above listing of apparel is the basic for all male members of the guard. While these are the basics for apparel, variations will exist and participation will not be discouraged based on these variations. Another important consideration is the type of fabric used in making the apparel and the accessories. Due to the time and expense of obtaining apparel made from natural and more authentic material, many guard members choose to obtain a less expensive apparel made from modern fabric, most often polyester or gabardine.

Commands

While some members of the GSMD have a military background, most do not. Accordingly, this section is intended to familiarize all Guardsmen with the standard commands. The commands given below are a mixture of both modern commands and those commands used during the colonial period. Some units may prefer to use all modern commands while some will use a mixture and some will exclusively use those commands outlined in the De Gheyn Manual. A specific policy has not been adopted as of the writing of this manual.

Posting the Colors & Other Indoor Events. The most common Mayflower Guard activity will be posting of the Colors at a meeting or some other public event that occurs indoors. Given the wide variety of locations, meetings, and other details, there is no specific program that can be provided as an example. However, the basic commands that will be used in such an event are provided. In all commands where direction is given, the command should be timed so that the execution of the command begins on the left foot.

- *Guard, Attention.* Guard comes to attention with flags and firearms on the floor to their right.
- *Carry Arms.* Flags and firearms are lifted into position so that they can be carried.
- *Guard, Mark Time March.* Guard marches in place, starting with the left foot so that tempo for subsequent commands can be established.
- *Guard, Forward March.* Guard moves forward starting on their left foot.
- *Guard, Mark Time March.* Front rank halts their forward progress and continues to march in place allowing for subsequent ranks to catch up to the final position if necessary.
- ☒ *Guard, Halt.* All marching ceases within two beats or steps.
- *Guard, Left / Right Face.* Guard faces the appropriate direction to face the audience as ordered by the Commander.
- *Present Colors.* All flags except the National are dipped and firearms are brought to the Present Arms position for pledges and the National Anthem.
- *Color Bearers, About Face.* All color bearers will turn to face toward the flag stands.
- *Post the Colors.* Color bearers place the flags in the flag stands and dress the flags appropriately.
Color bearers are free to move forward and back one step as necessary. Musketeers continue to maintain the present arms position.
- *Present Arms.* Color bearers salute the posted Colors.
- *Order Arms.* All color guardsmen return to the attention position.
- *Guard, Center Face.* All color guard face the appropriate direction to move out of the room in single or double column.
- ☒ *Guard, Post (or To your post).* All color guard move to a previously designated location or post

Additional notes for indoor events:

- The Commander must make all guardsmen aware of obstacles such as lighting fixtures;
- A drummer can be used to provide timing for commands;
- The National Colors should always either lead a column or process on the right of any rank;
- If ranks are used, a cross-over maneuver will be necessary after the Guard halts since the National Colors are always placed on the left (speaker's right);
- The same series of commands can be used for the Retiring of Colors at the end of the meeting except that there will be no Present Colors command and the Post the Colors command would be replaced by a Retrieve the Colors command.

Graveside / Outdoor / Other Outdoor Events. There are two common types of outdoor ceremonies in which the Color Guard most often participate:

- The commemoration or celebration; and,
- The wreath-laying The commands used at these ceremonies are the same as those outlined above.

The differences between the indoor posting of colors and the outdoor ceremony are that there are more program elements associated with the outdoor event, and the Mayflower Guard will often remain in place after the presentation of Colors due to the lack of outdoor flag stands.

If the Guard remains in place, the Commander should issue the following commands after the presentation of Colors:

- *Carry Arms.* All color guard return flags and muskets to the carry position.
- *Guard, Rest.* Flags and muskets are lowered to rest on the ground and the guardsmen are able to stand without being at attention.

In most cases, the master of ceremonies will ask for the Retirement of Colors shortly after this event, so the Color Guard should remain at attention and be prepared for further commands.

Parades. Given that most parades will only entail simple movements, the commands associated with parades are:

- *Guard, Attention.* Color guard should come to attention with flags and firearms on the floor to their right.
- *Carry Arms.* Flags and firearms are lifted into position so that they can be carried.
- *Guard, Mark Time March.* Guard marches in place starting with the left foot so that tempo for subsequent commands can be established.
- *Guard, Forward March.* Guard moves forward starting on their left foot.
- *Guard, Mark Time March.* Front rank halts their forward progress and continues to march in place allowing for subsequent ranks to catch up to the final position if necessary.
- *Guard, Halt.* All marching should cease within two beats or steps.

If there is a Reviewing Stand during the parade, the Commander should brief the Guard of the following additional commands that will be used:

- *Present Arms.* All flags are dipped except the National Colors and all guardsmen will turn their heads 45 degrees towards the review stand)
- *Carry Arms.* All flags are returned to the carry position and heads face straight ahead.

Mayflower Guard Behavior at Events

Hand Salutes. As with current military custom, only the Commander of the Mayflower Guard and those members carrying muskets will Present Arms when called to salute. No Color Bearer ever renders a hand salute, unless specifically ordered immediately after the posting of colors, since the Commander is understood to present the salute for the entire unit.

Prayers. Likewise, during prayers, Guard members only close their eyes. At no time does the Guardsman bow his head or remove his hat.

Wearing Medals. If a Color Guardsman insists on wearing GSMD medals on his uniform because he would not otherwise have an opportunity to wear them, then they may be worn only during GSMD internal events such as colony, society and national meetings where the general public is not present. In any case, the Mayflower Guard Commander in charge makes the final decision on the permission to wear medals on the Color Guard uniform during GSMD internal events. It is the policy of the National Mayflower Guard Committee that no medals or other decorations will be worn at official General Society events.

Department: At all times, a Mayflower Guardsman must behave with the utmost decorum. This is interpreted to mean that the Guardsman may **not** break ranks even when at rest during a ceremony unless they are going forward to present a wreath / render honors or have a specific additional role during a ceremony. The Color Guardsman will **not** take photographs during an event or ceremony. A Guardsman may acknowledge the master of ceremonies if their name is called out for recognition during an event or ceremony.

Health and Safety Regulations

The following regulations were enacted for the health and safety of the Guardsmen participating in the various GSMD sponsored outdoor events.

- The Commander, assisted by the Event Coordinator, shall be responsible for enforcing these regulations as much as practicable, but each individual Guardsman is ultimately responsible for his own health and safety including, but not limited to, obtaining the necessary liability insurance.
- It shall be the responsibility of individual Guardsman to be aware of their own physical limitations and to excuse themselves from parades or events that will exceed their capabilities. They should also advise the Commander of this situation so appropriate arrangements can be made. In participating in a parade, each Guardsman is expected to maintain the set pace.
- The Commander shall be responsible to inform Guardsmen of the expected physical activity required at any event including, but not limited to, the length of any march, the route of march, expected maneuvers and obstacles. The Commander, or his designee shall be responsible for arranging transportation both to and from parades. The Commander, or his designee, shall be responsible for ensuring that adequate water or other appropriate liquid refreshments are available for the participants.
- In the event of a review by the Governor General, it is advised that this review occur inside, in an air conditioned or heated environment prior to the event depending on the time of year.
- When participating in a re-enactment event not directly sponsored by the GSMD, the Guardsman must abide by the effective rules and regulations of the sponsoring organization. A Safety Officer can be appointed by the Commander for such events.