

Howdy Pilgrim

T E X A S S O C I E T Y O F M A Y F L O W E R D E S C E N D A N T S

2015-2017 Elected Officers

Rick Denham, Governor

Lorie Holbrooks, Deputy Governor

Prarie Counce, Corresponding Secretary

Judie Allen, Recording Secretary

Mike Nichols, Treasurer

Jennifer Mitten, Lead Historian

Betty Gosdin, Co-Historian

Sheryl Schilling, Co-Historian

Lavonne Bradfield, Assistant Historian

Elizabeth Heise, Assistant Historian

Carolyn McCall, Elder

Charles Prince, Captain

Lisa Pennington, Counsellor

A Message From Our Governor



Greetings Cousins,

My first year as Governor has been a pleasure, thanks to all the assistance I have received from the Board of Assistants. Their guidance has made this past year very enjoyable. It is an honor to serve as your Governor.

Thanks to the San Antonio Colony for the great TXSOMD Annual Meeting held in the Menger Hotel, where the TXSOMD was established 85 years ago. The accommodations, facilities, programs and hospitality were great. I look forward to each annual meeting to meet and greet Cousins from all over Texas.

I want to give special thanks to Linda Hill for her service as Acting Recording Secretary and for helping me prepare for the meetings in San Antonio and to Jane Powers for serving as Parliamentarian.

I also want to thank our Finance, Audit and Endowment Committees for their work.

Have a great summer, I hope to see you next year in Austin.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Governor's Corner	1
Annual Meeting Report	2
2020 Capital Campaign	3
Colony News	4-8
New Members	9
Supplementals, Juniors, In Memoriam	10
Junior News	11
Save the Date Austin 2017	12

Rick



2016 TXSOMD Scholarship Recipients
L—R Hannah Wetterau and Hannah Gooden

Report of the 2016 Annual Meeting

San Antonio Colony Governor Debbie Werner and the San Antonio Colony members did a splendid job of hosting the 85th Annual Meeting of the Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants this past April 1-2 at the historic Menger Hotel in downtown San Antonio, where the Texas Society was first organized.

Activities started Friday evening as Governor Rick Denham chaired a Board of Assistants meeting, which ratified the actions approved by email voting since the last Board meeting, followed by a Governors Reception featuring hot hors d'oeuvres and live music.

On Saturday, Governor Denham chaired the General Meeting morning and afternoon sessions, separated by a nice luncheon and a fascinating talk by William Groneman about the actual background of David Crockett, who was killed just across the street at the Alamo. The meeting included reports from many of the officers, committees, and Colonies. We voted on the proposed Bylaws changes, all of which were approved. We also voted to increase our Annual Donation to the General Society from \$1,000 to \$1,620, to go to the Governor General's 1620 Fund in the name of our Annual Award Honoree. This will make our Honoree a member of the GSMD 1620 Club for that year. We also voted an additional \$250 contribution to have a memorial brick placed on the Octagon area of the Mayflower House Garden Walkway, inscribed with the name of our Honoree. A very nice memorial service was held in remembrance of our members who passed away since our last meeting. Peggy Marsh, Junior Committee Chairman, held a Junior Membership workshop. All of the motions made can be found on our web site, <http://texasmayflower.com>.

The Endowment Committee presented a proposal to create a 2020 Texas Mayflower Fund, which was approved. The purpose of this Fund is to significantly enhance our ability to support our scholarships and education activities and to bring attention to the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower landing. There will be a four (4) year period of solicitation (2016-2020) with a goal of raising \$125,000. This will allow us to contribute an additional \$4,000 to our scholarships and an additional \$1,000 to our educational activities.

Governor Denham chaired the second Board of Assistants meeting which followed the General Meeting where the budget for 2016-2017 was presented and approved.

The day ended with a wonderful banquet. Guest speaker, Susan Snow, helped us understand "Why the San Antonio Missions Are Worthy of World Heritage Designation."

Dwight Benson, Awards Committee Chairman, and Central Texas Colony Governor, announced that Prairie Counce, Corresponding Secretary and DFW Colony Governor, is the recipient of the 2016 Annual Award.

At the close of business, Governor Denham adjourned the meeting.



L William Groneman

Center Debbie Werner, Susan Snow, Governor Denham

R Prairie Counce 2016 Award Recipient



Support your Mayflower Heritage by Paying it Forward!

Our Texas Society would love to increase **EDUCATION** efforts across the State and we need your help to do that!

Consider this – one of our key purposes as a Society is to honor our Mayflower heritage and to enable future generations to know about and honor this heritage. One of our former members, Ms. Alice Lathrop of San Antonio, blessed our society some years ago with a major testamentary gift which enabled us to start giving scholarships to deserving young people. What a wonderful heritage she left!

At the recent annual Texas Mayflower Society meeting in San Antonio, we agreed to honor our ancestors at our 400th anniversary in 2020 by establishing a 2020 Mayflower Fund campaign. This campaign will attempt to raise enough funds between 2016 and 2020 to permit our Texas Society to offer every year thereafter:

- ♦ Two sizeable Mayflower scholarships for Mayflower descendants to attend college (one for \$5,000 and one for \$3,000)
- ♦ Additional support for our colonies to highlight our Mayflower heritage in schools
- ♦ Provide “museum boxes” of Mayflower materials (books, games, pictures, lesson plans for classes on the Mayflower and Mayflower families for use by teachers in school districts). Here is what a “museum box” looks like:



To enable us to provide the above items every year, we need to raise about \$125,000 by 2020, beginning this year. These funds will supplement our existing Mayflower Fund to enable these plans.

Why should you consider supporting this effort?

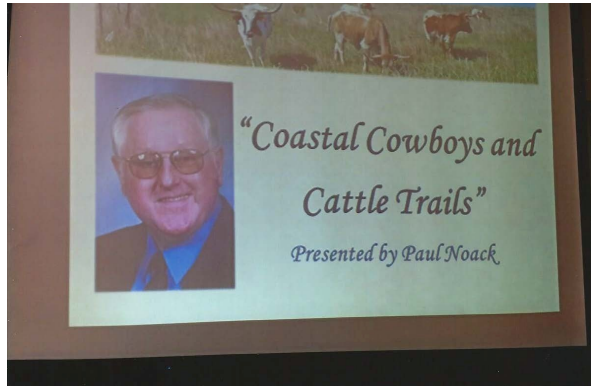
- ♦ Honor your Mayflower heritage
- ♦ Gifts may be given as gifts in honor of others or as memorial gifts if wished (to be published in our Newsletter)
- ♦ Assist future generations to appreciate the significance of the Mayflower story and its importance in establishing our country.

Help us to make this goal to significantly enhance our Mayflower heritage footprint in Texas!

Please send your check to Mike Nichols, our Treasurer, made out to the Texas Mayflower Society and marked for the 2020 Mayflower Fund. Your gift of any size to this fund from now until the end of 2020 will be gratefully received and recognized.

Bart Henson, Chair Mayflower Endowment Committee

Colony News



The **San Antonio Colony** of Mayflower Descendants held their spring meeting on May 7 at Los Patios Restaurant. There were 32 members, guests and prospective members in attendance. Members enjoyed a lunch of beef tips and rice or quiche with fresh fruit. Fresh strawberry pie topped off the meal. Paul Noack of Austin gave the program on "Coastal Cowboys and Cattle Trails" which traced the trail from Refugio County to New Orleans. His talk and accompanying power point were so engaging that we may invite him back for "the rest of the story". Of particular interest were the families who lived along the route and the role they played in the cattle drives. A short business meeting followed and door prizes were given away. It was announced that the Battle of Medina annual ceremony will be held on August 20 and our members are invited to attend. Our colony is represented each year and places a marker at the site. Our next colony meeting will be held on August 27 at Los Patios.



Debbie Werner, San Antonio Colony Governor welcomes Colony Members and Guests



Houston Colony held their Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 30 at Maggiano's Little Italy. Courtney Roy-Branigan, Director of Development Plimoth Plantation, and Vicki Oman, and Richard Pickering, Interpreters from Plimoth Plantation came from Massachusetts to present the program. Richard and Vicki became Isaac Allerton and Fear Brewster Allerton in an "Afternoon with the Allertons." Richard and Vicki are wonderful interpreters. They also brought baskets which were given to three lucky attendees. The Houston Colony thanked them with a donation to Plimoth Plantation.

Our very own Houston Junior, Jason Sharer, won Governor Rick Denham's first "Hit me with a Brick Award". Jason received a "Brick Pin" for his Family History Essay. Jason will always be remembered with a Brick in the Garden of Mayflower House in Plymouth.

Houston's Scholarship recipient, Jonathan Jones, grandson of Houston's Deputy Governor, Richard Smith, was honored.

It is hoped that the Houston 2020 Celebration will include an exhibit at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Lisa Rebori, Vice President of Collections for the museum of Natural History invited anyone who chose to attend, to visit the Museum on Sunday. Lisa Rebori attend the Colony meeting on Saturday to get a feel for what our Society might like to see as part of the 2020 celebration.

Approximately 100 members, guest, and prospective members attended, enjoyed the program and colony fellowship.

Jason Sharer, winner of Governor Denham's "Hit me with a Brick Award"



L-R Courtney Roy-Branigan, Leah Davis, Richard Pickering, and Vicki Oman. Courtney is Director of Development at Plimoth Plantation. Richard as Isaac Allerton and Vicki as Fear Brewster Allerton presented "An Afternoon with the Allertons" Leah is Houston Colony Governor



The regular spring meeting of the **Dallas Fort Worth Colony** was also the 70th Anniversary of the Colony. Governor, Prarie Counce, called the meeting to order at noon at the pavilion of the Gussie Field Watterworth Park and Rose Gardens in Farmers Branch. A quorum was present with fifty-five people in attendance, including the Colony's Scholarship winners and their families.

The pledges were led by Junior Ryan Hurley. Historian Patti Necessary gave a wonderful history of the colony since its founding in 1946. Everyone chuckled as Patti mentioned that the opening treasury for that year was \$20.40.

Past Governor Linda Hill was recognized for her service to the Colony and given a certificate and roses by Governor Counce. Linda Hill then announced that Prarie had been honored by receiving the State Society's donation of \$1620 to Plymouth at the state meeting in San Antonio and also had a brick planted with her name in the Society's garden at Plymouth. Prarie will represent the state at the General Society's function for "1620 members."

Education co-chairman, Susie Ashbaugh, gave an impressive education committee report. This very active committee had reached 1500 students in the past year and had several library displays. She announced that they were planning a workshop for making additional traveling museum boxes.

Scholarship Chairman, Jean de Schweinitz introduced the Colony's two scholarship winners, (1) Hannah Gooden and (2) Hannah Wetterau. First place winner, Hannah Gooden, who is still weighing her college options, read her excellent essay on her ancestor, Edward Doty. Second place winner was Hannah Wetterau, who will be a Computer Science student at UT Austin. Her ancestor is William Brewster.

The meeting was adjourned and members enjoyed a wonderful picnic lunch with anniversary cake, and leisurely walk through the adjacent rose gardens.



The **Waco Colony** met in Governor Ann Harder's home on Saturday, May 21, and the group enjoyed a light luncheon and program. Local retired educator, David Vardeman shared his extensive collection of Native American artifacts with the gathering.



On the left, Ann Harder, Governor, hosts colony members at Waco Spring meeting



The **West Texas Colony** of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Texas held its annual spring meeting on April 30th, 2016 at the Greentree Country Club in Midland. Blessing of food was given by Pilgrim Joyce Moore, acting Elder. The meal was served and the menu was delightful. Everyone enjoyed visiting with each other during this time. Governor Lorie Holbrooks called the meeting to order. The minutes were read by Pilgrim Geri Lilly. Treasurer report was also presented by Pilgrim Geri Lilly in the absence of Treasurer Laine Miller. Committee reports were given. There was no unfinished business. Pilgrim Joyce Moore and State Governor Rick Denham will be attending a Memorial Service at the Resthaven Memorial Park on May 30th and will be placing a new patriotic wreath at the cemetery in honor of our Veterans. The colony voted to donate \$100.00 to the Honor Flight. Governor Rick Denham gave a report on the 85th anniversary of the founding of the Texas Society held at the historic Menger Hotel in San Antonio, Texas.

L-R Texas Governor Rick Denham, Colony Governor Lorie Holbrooks, Joyce Moore, and Geri Lilly



The **Tyler Colony** of the Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants met on Saturday, May 21st, at the Green Acres Baptist Church Lake Retreat in Tyler, Texas. Colony Governor James (Jim) Walker presided over the meeting. Colony Governor Walker reported on his trip to the Texas state meeting and indicated that the Texas Society is stressing the enrolling of new Junior Members.

Deputy Governor Dennis Alden introduced the program. Betty and David Couch presented a Power Point program about an educational and fun trip to Plymouth that they took with their two granddaughters in September 2013. Both granddaughters, Madeline Couch and Anna Couch, are junior members of the Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants. In the presentation, David Couch distributed a map depicting where the Saints and Strangers lived in Plimouth Plantation in 1627 and then showed maps and pictures of where they actually lived in current downtown Plymouth.



L—R Governor Walker, Recording Secretary Pansy Connor, Elder Pam Lister, and Deputy Governor Dennis Alden
On the Right Madeline and Anna Couch in Plymouth



The Spring Luncheon of the **Central Texas Colony** was held in Austin on May 7, 2016. Fifty-two Colony members and guests attended the Luncheon which was held at the Hilton Garden Inn and Suites, Arboretum.

Ms. Sharon Moore Wolff was the guest speaker. Sharon is a noted genealogist and researcher based in the San Antonio area. She is a seventh generation Texan and a charter member of the George W. Kendal Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). She has presented lineage workshops in cities all over the state and was a speaker this year at The Texas State Genealogical Conference. Ms. Wolff's presentation was titled "Researching on the Ever Changing Internet". Everyone attending was provided with informative and valuable handouts to take home.

Colony officer and committee reports were given by Treasurer Harry Walden, Education Committee Chairperson Betty Prince, Juniors Committee Chairperson Barbara Alvarez. Our own Mike Nichols reviewed the activities and results of the wonderful 2016 Texas State Annual Meeting held in San Antonio where our State Society was formed on December 24, 1931.



Sharon Wolff explains a concept to the Spring meeting of the Central Texas Colony



Please Welcome Our New Members by Application

Name	Ancestor	Name	Ancestor
Cindy Key Broderick	Edward Doty	Carol Mary Bishop	Francis Eaton
Katerina Lynne Harper	Stephen Hopkins	Kendyl Anne Harper	Stephen Hopkins
Kathleen Rainey McStravick	Henry Samson	Charles Robert McStravick	Henry Samson
Ann Marie McStravick	Henry Samson	William Edwin Neisel	William Brewster
Roberta Alexander Lear	William Bradford	Bonnie Jean Duncan Highsmith	John Howland
Dwight C Benson Jr	Thomas Rogers	Grace Grimes White	John Alden
Peggy Griffin Johnson	George Soule	Donna Rae Alexander Grabs	George Soule
Michael Derek Christensen	George Soule	Norene Pfautz Fiacco	John Tilley
Doris Blair Flatt	Edward Fuller	Kelly K Kerwin Lindsey	William Brewster
Anthony Paul Zavadil, IV	Stephen Hopkins	George Clayborn Wayne	John Alden
Marilee Parks Stripling	George Soule	Jennifer Lynn Marble	William White
Jonathan R Marble	William White	Sharon Kay Cushman Martin	Isaac Allerton
Michael Lee Martin	Isaac Allerton	Brittney Leigh Hopkins	William Bradford
Brandi Nicole Hopkins	William Bradford	Sue Breed	Stephen Hopkins
Alice Betsy Carlson Stone	Richard Warren	Linda Marie Champagne	William Bradford
Alfred Leroy Shacklett, Jr	William Bradford		

And Our New Member by Transfer

David Daniel Colpitts
from Massachusetts

Stephen Hopkins
John Howland

The following members had new ancestors approved since the last newsletter.

Constance Abell McCall Myles Standish, Richard Warren
Reginald John White William Brewster
Laura Jane Buckmaster Joan (Hurst) Tilley, John Tilley, Elizabeth Tilley

New Junior Members

James George Payton and **Victor Leo Wagoner Whitlow** Sponsor Bradford Allen Wagoner
 Ancestor John Howland
**Chloe Jaden Stark, Carys Jolie Stark, Charlotte Juliette Stark, Emerson
 Claire Siebert, and Maverick Ryan Siebert**
 Sponsor Mary Rowland Stark Ancestor William Bradford

In Memoriam

Kerry Arnold Douglas	May 10, 2015	Isaac Allerton William Bradford
Nancy Ring Vreugde Past Texas Co-Historian	February 07, 2016	Stephen Hopkins John Alden, George Soule
Ruth Ramsey Morrow	June 08, 2015	Francis Cooke
Floyd Eugene Duncan	December 27, 2015	John Howland
Mary Ann McKinney Bussa	March 01, 2016	John Alden



Digital Colorful Newsletter in Your Inbox?

The Newsletter Editor is offering you the opportunity to go paperless for two issues a year and see our newsletter in lovely color. If you are interested, please contact our Corresponding Secretary, Prarie Counce, prariec@me.com or myself Pat Nichols, patricia.a.nichols@gmail.com and tell us that you wish to enroll in email newsletters for the summer and fall issues.

Meet Jason Sharer, Texas First Junior Family Historian



L-R Stan Kuenn, family historian, Jason Sharer, winner, and Hollis Kuenn, sponsor and grand mother

Mayflower Junior, Jason Sharer, became the first Texas Junior Family Historian. The composition competition, “Hit Me with a Brick, I Did Not Know That”, required that the Junior have a conversation with a family member most familiar with their family history. The primary idea was for the Junior to learn *new* information about his or her family which would be passed to the next generation. Jason received a brick which will be inscribed with Jason’s name and *Texas Junior Family Historian 2016* and will be placed on the Garden Walkway at the Mayflower Society House in Plymouth. Jason interviewed his grandfather, Stan Kuenn, not a Pilgrim descendant, but a serious family historian.

Jason’s mother, Kelly Sharer, is understandably proud. “Jason is 12 years old attending 6th grade in the Conroe ISD. His school chose him to participate in their Math Olympiad and History Bee competitions. He also helped design and run a station for the district’s SciMathelon competition. In March, he planned, organized, and led a free, community event to celebrate Pi Day to help keep middle school and elementary kids engaged in math and science. Jason participated in FLL robotics for the past three years, working as captain of his school’s team this year. In February, his team won the robot games at the Bayou City Tournament of Champions. Jason has also taken several online college-level classes. He has completed six classes from universities such as MIT, Harvard, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the University of Edinburgh. Outside of school, Jason is active in swimming. He is already a Texas qualifier for the State Games of America in 2017. He has been active in scouting since the age of six. He enjoys listening to music, reading science fiction, playing chess, playing soccer, running, pole vaulting and engaging in political discussions.”

Jason shared what he learned from his interview. I learned about a boy who was a very good swimmer, just like me. One of my ancestors, Joseph De Silva, had a farm in the Madeira Islands. One day, he was about 16 and was sitting on the shore when British soldiers came up to him and forced him aboard the ship. He was treated as their prisoner. Eventually, the British ship went to America to fight in the Revolutionary War. When the ship arrived, Joseph, being a good swimmer, jumped over board and swam over a mile to shore to escape. He couldn’t speak any language other than Portuguese, but a kind man from Philadelphia picked him up in a wagon and brought him back to the house. After about a year, he joined the militia with the man, but he was captured by the British again and taken to Staten Island. There, he heard about the British General Howe’s plans. He quickly escaped by swimming to the New Jersey shore. He met with General George Washington and told him of Howe’s plans. He got so close to General Washington that he noticed his pock-marked face. Washington offered to release him from the army, but he really hated the British, so he kept his position. At the end of the war, he was granted 640 acres of land. Ironically, he died at age 87 from drowning.

From your Junior Committee:

If you are a current GSMD member in good standing, have young family members between birth and age 18 who are of lineal descent from a passenger on the Mayflower, please email peggyismarsh@comcast.net about Junior membership.

The Society of Mayflower
Descendants in the State of Texas

Pat Nichols, Editor
310 Clovis Dr
Georgetown, TX 78628-7166

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit 923

Wichita, Kansas

Change Service Requested

Save the Date!

The Central Texas Colony cordially invites the members of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Texas to gather in the Capital city of Austin on March 24 & 25, 2017, for the 86th Annual Meeting of the Texas Society. More information will appear in upcoming newsletters.

