



MAYFLOWER NEWSLETTER

Fall 2012

Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan

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Time for your ANNUAL COMPACT DAY RESERVATIONS

Our Compact Day Luncheon Speaker will be Roger Schlosser, Professor of Irish History, Grand Rapids Community College

Your Speaker, Roger M. Schlosser, (agus, Ruairi M. O'Cashel) was born in Grand Rapids to Bernard Schlosser and Kathryn Schlosser, nee Coffey; was one of nine sons. Bernard traveled up to three weeks a out of the month for a Swiss pharmaceutical firm so the boys were raised as Irish Catholics by their Irish mother. Roger taught at Grand Rapids Community College for forty-one years in the History and Philosophy Departments. He started the GRCC Honors Program and was the founder and Director of the GRCC Irish Studies Program. His academic background included Western Michigan University, University College, Wales, and the University of Notre Dame. Since the late 1970s Roger has conducted foreign studies tours, seminars, and cultural programs beyond Ireland to western, central and eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Scandinavian and Baltic countries, northern and southern Africa, Asian countries, Latin, and South American countries, and Cuba. Even in retirement he has continued to travel leading groups and with his wife Barbara. He has recently built a lodge on Drummond Island which can accommodate his four children, their spouses and the seven grand-children with beds left over. He is currently the President of the Gaelic League of West Michigan and the President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Fr. John Whalen McGee Division.

Roger will discuss the
**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO THE MODERN
TROUBLES IN IRISH HISTORY**

MICHIGAN MAYFLOWER BOARD OF ASSISTANTS

(According to the By-Laws, Article IV) Voting Members*

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3772 North Meridian Road, Sanford, Michigan 48657

(this would be a voting position in the event there was an empty Assistant slot)

***RECORDING SECRETARY: Elizabeth Williams**

Phone: 810-635-3469 or EWILLIAMS797@aol.com

7478 Hill Road, Swartz Creek, Michigan 48473

***HISTORIAN: Diane Sonneck**

Phone: 313-885-9429, Cell Phone: 313-516-8343 or DSOONNECKEN@aol.com

1030 Harvard Road, Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48230

***HISTORIAN FOR JUNIORS: Patricia Brown**

Phone: 248-398-7547 or patriciabrown@mail.com

3542 Phillips Avenue, Berkley, Michigan 48072

***ASSISTANT, (Membership Secretary): Anne Burt**

Phone: 248-549-0938 or aburtt6572@aol.com

2907 Woodslee Drive, Royal Oak, Michigan 48073

***ASSISTANT, (Public Relations Secretary): Bonnie Vokits**

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4058 East Fruitport Road, Fruitport, Michigan 49415

***ASSISTANT, (Corresponding Secretary): Clara Vickers**

Phone: 231-652-1399 or blue@ncats.net

773 West 68th Street, Newaygo, Michigan 49337

***ASSISTANT, (Historian's 1st Assistant): Barbara Greene**

Phone: 248-641-8606 or zippyzebra@prodigy.net

1898 Club Drive, Troy, Michigan 48098

Counselor: Mary Ellen Byrne (*past-governor), (mecb@pentel.net);

Flag Captain, Lynne Colter Witt

MICHIGAN'S WEB-SITE: www.michmayflower.org

Investment Committee (in charge of the Life-funds): Terry McKane, Chairman, Past Governor (above);

(Thora Goodnight, Treasurer (above); Linda Fisher, Assistant Treasurer (above); June Gorman,

Governor (above); Grace Smith, Deputy Governor (above); Mary Ellen Byrne, Past Governor

(above); Diane Sonneck, Historian (above).

**ANNOUNCING
THE MICHIGAN MAYFLOWER SOCIETY
2012 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER
ZACH THRONE**

Zach, a Junior Member and descendant of John Billington, presented a colorful and informative “hand-out” designed to promote Mayflower History, and educate, Elementary school students. He emphasized the important contributions the Mayflower Pilgrims made to America. An awards presentation will be made at our 3 November 2012 Compact Day Meeting. Congratulations Zach.

The Michigan Mayflower Society’s Centennial book is usually available at the general meetings. You may want to think about Christmas gifts for your favorite Mayflower descendants. The book is still only \$20.00.

Also available are Mayflower note cards picturing various Mayflower scenes, (10% going to the Junior Member’s fund). Warren and Cooke House note cards (5 note cards with envelopes) \$4.00, and postcards of the Warren Canopy bed, housed at the Mayflower House in Plymouth, Massachusetts \$1.00 each (10% of the proceeds going to the Michigan Society).

We still have some Pilgrim biography books remaining. The sale of these items will benefit the Junior members. They will be available at our general meetings for \$5.00 each. The author may not publish any more, so they maybe a limited edition.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

7-9 September 2012, General Society Board of Assistants Meeting.

Mount Laurel, New Jersey.

1 November 2012, Michigan Mayflower Dues are due, before January (\$28).

3 November 2012, Compact Day Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.

Vote on By-Law changes and 2013 Budget.

**Cascade Manor House, 1970 Kibby Road,
Jackson, Michigan.**

Speaker: Professor Roger Schlosser,

Topic: Ireland and Irish History.

1 April 2013, Scholarship entries are due. (see web-site).

1 May 2013, Mayflower Dues are delinquent, (\$10 late fee in effect).

11 May 2013, Spring Board Meeting, 9 a.m.

Scholarship entries are distributed (for the Board's review).

State Room Restaurant, Kellogg Center,

MSU Campus, S. Harrison Road, East Lansing.

Plan to order breakfast for a no room charge.

11 May 2013, Spring Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.

Kellogg Center, MSU, East Lansing, S. Harrison Road.

Speaker: Author, Caleb Johnson,

Topic: Mayflower English Research.

3 August 2013, Summer Board Meeting, 10 a.m.

Scholarship entries are considered and selected.

State Room Restaurant, Kellogg Center,

MSU Campus, S. Harrison Road, East Lansing,

Plan to order breakfast and/or lunch for a no room charge.

September 2013, General Society Board of Assistants Meeting.

Dates and Location to be announced.

2 November 2013, Compact Day Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.

Scholarship awards are presented.

Kellogg Center, MSU, East Lansing, S. Harrison Road.

Officer Elections and Installations.

**Speaker: Past President of the Mid-Michigan Genealogical
Society, Kris Rzepczybski,**

Archivist for the Michigan State Archives

Topic: Michigan State Archives

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**Member:**

Donna Hatch Sharp (Transfer from Indiana)
 Susan Gay McNamara Tews
 Janice Lee Beckman Simons
 Sharon Rose Friend Bricker
 Taron Bayleran Burris
 Laura Kay Neuenfeldt Kopplin
 Donald Lovell Neuenfeldt
 Andrew Arnold Neuenfeldt
 Andrew James Toreson
 Carole Jeanne Aldrich Jennings
 Caleen Diane Geyer Stepaniak
 Nola Ruth Green Hall
 Ian Michael Burris
 Janet Elaine Silvis Weaver
 Bradley Todd Funkhouser
 Glenn Allen LeSage
 David Lee Burris
 Mary Ellen Doyle
 Elaine Celeste Hazel
 Connie Sue Armstrong Bieth
 Marjorie Mae Bright McNamara
 Kaylei Nicole McGaw
 Scott Raymond Chamberlain
 Vickie Lynn Wagner Smetanka
 Kenneth Lee Lawrence
 Kyle Duane Lawrence
 Jesse Shawn Green
 Carol Marie McComb Hansen
 Joan Vellenga Clark
 Harriet Dodd Port
 Alice Irene Mackley Shovan
 Robert Curtis Johnson

Ancestor:

Francis Cooke
 William Brewster
 William Bradford
 Francis Cooke
 Stephen Hopkins
 Samuel Fuller
 Samuel Fuller
 Samuel Fuller
 William Brewster
 John Billington
 William Bradford
 Edward Fuller
 Stephen Hopkins
 James Chilton
 John Howland
 John Billington
 Stephen Hopkins
 Francis Cooke
 John Howland
 George Soule
 William Brewster
 Stephen Hopkins
 John Alden
 Francis Cooke
 Francis Cooke
 Francis Cooke
 Stephen Hopkins
 William Bradford
 John Alden
 John Alden
 John Howland
 Francis Cooke

SUPPLEMENTALS

Donna Hatch Sharp (Transfer from Indiana)
 Andrew Arnold Neuenfeldt
 Andrew Arnold Neuenfeldt
 Connie Lynn Pepper Riley

James Chilton
 John Billington
 Francis Eaton
 Richard Warren

OTHER ACTIVITIES

2 papers pending in Plymouth; 75 Website Inquiries; 36 inquiries from Plymouth; 29 phone, referrals, letters, etc

Respectfully Submitted: Diane H. Sonneck, Historian

Mayflower Members are invited to join the
17th Century Colonial Dames,
Captain Thomas Taber, Muskegon Chapter.
If you are interested, please contact Barbara Martin
baabmaat@gmail.com

HISTORIAN FOR JUNIORS REPORT

August 18, 2012

Our current Junior membership is 614, having gained 4 new members since the Spring Luncheon in May, 2012. Our total gain so far for 2012 is 19.

The Historian for Juniors Report from May that was published in the summer newsletter has had some feedback from members and/or sponsors of some of our Juniors. I have received some birth dates, as well as some address updates.

Surprisingly, birthday cards that have been returned by the Post Office have not only been for our 18 and 24 year-olds: I have also received returns of some sent to our 13 and 6 year-olds. Over all, though, I am pleased with the program. I have sent out 75 cards and have only had 7 returned by the Post Office.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia Brown, Historian for Juniors

**HELP! WE NEED A VOLUNTEER
FOR THE POSITION OF
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

If you are interested please contact Clara Vickers,
(see page 2) for a job description and information.

www.pilgrimhall.org (the Pilgrim Museum in Plymouth)

museumshops@plimoth.org

Rosers@sympatico.ca (the Mayflower reference Book)

www.friendsofthepilgrims.com

mayflower_books@99main.com

**HELP! WE NEED THREE VOLUNTEERS
TO SERVE ON A TEMPORARY
COMPILATION COMMITTEE
to review our finances.**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, August 18, 2012

<u>ACTIVE MEMBERS</u>	807	839821
Life members	366	407416
Regular members	441	432405

ACTIVITY SINCE JANUARY 1

New Members	38	3223
Transfers In	0	00
Reinstatements	1	68
Transfers Out	0	02
Deceased	6	85
Resigned	0	00
Dropped	0	00

Submitted by, Anne Burt, Membership Secretary

MICHIGAN MAYFLOWER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

There has been some date changes for the Scholarship Program. See page 4, "Important Dates to Remember", in this newsletter, for the specific dates.

The Board voted to increase our scholarship amounts. Beginning with the 2013 awards; 1st place \$2000, 2nd place \$1000, and 3rd place \$500. Entries (and/or description of the entries) have to be submitted to the Governor by 1 April 2013.

The web-site will have the entry application. All applicants must be Michigan Junior Members.

Our scholarship goal is to promote education regarding our Pilgrim Fathers and the history of the Mayflower ship, and the contributions they made to the growth of our country and the freedoms on which our government has been founded. We are also encouraging involvement with our Mayflower Juniors. The entries have to be historically accurate, and can be in any form, including writings, presentations, art projects, etc.

The General Society has made several By-Law changes, which requires us to do the same. Also we have some other By-Law issues, which the Michigan Society must address. Our Counselor, Mary Ellen Byrne, has presented the following. As required by our current by-laws, we are presenting the changes in a timely manner, before the vote. These changes will be voted on at the November 3 meeting.

Proposed Amendments
Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan
November 3, 2012 Annual Meeting
Adopted: _____

1. Article II - Objectives

Amend Title by adding "and Purposes"

The title would then read "**Objectives and Purposes**"

2. In first sentence add "**and purposes**" between "objectives" and "of"
First sentence would read "**The objectives and purposes of the Society shall be:**"

3. Add a new section:

Section 3. The purposes of this society shall be: Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the purposes for which the corporation is organized and operated are exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.

Rationale: to accurately state the purposes of the society and to conform to IRS language for 501(c)(3) status.

4. Article III, Section 4.

Delete "**The name of**" in first line. Delete "**shall, after notice to such member,**" between "year" and "be" in second line. At end of last sentence add: "**The Membership Secretary will send adequate notice to all members who will be dropped for non-payment.**" The Section would then read:

Any Regular Member whose Annual Dues remain unpaid at the end of the calendar year shall be dropped from the roll of membership at the discretion of the Board of Assistants. The Membership Secretary will send adequate notice to all members who will be dropped for non-payment."

Rationale: Clarify procedure for dropping a member for nonpayment of dues.

5. Article V, Duties of the Officers,

Section 5. Delete "The Board of Assistants, at its discretion, may appoint an independent auditor, who may be a member of the Society, to audit the Society's books." In its place insert:

An Auditing Committee of three members shall be appointed by the Governor at the Society's Annual meeting in November whose duty it shall be to audit (audit, review or compilation) the Treasurer's accounts at the close of the fiscal year and to report at the Spring meeting. The Board of Assistants may

recommend to the Auditing Committee that the Treasurer's accounts be submitted to a Certified Public Accountant for an audit, a review, or a compilation.

Rationale: to define the procedure for "audit" of the treasurer's records.

6. Article VII, Meetings, Section 3.

Insert "A" after Section 3 which would then read Section 3 A.

7. Add a new section:

Section 3 B. The Board of Assistants may hold electronic meetings when necessary, if the technology used provides for a deliberative assembly and the opportunity for simultaneous communication. Participation in a meeting in this manner constitutes a presence in person at the meeting. Electronic voting or voting by mail is authorized for the Board of Assistants if such vote is ratified at the next meeting of the Board of Assistants.

Rationale: Provide for electronic meetings and voting when necessary.

8. Article XII - Distribution of Assets upon Dissolution -delete article and insert new article.

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, or to such other Society of Mayflower Descendants in another state having a purpose similar to this Society, as may be selected by the Board of Assistants, and which enjoys exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government for a public purpose. Any assets not so disposed shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is located, exclusively for these purposes or to organization(s) as the Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Rationale: Use the current IRS approved language

9. Article XIII Parliamentary Authority

Add words "Newly Revised" between "Order" and "shall." Sentence would then read

The rules contained in the latest revision of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern all meetings of the society and of the Board of Assistants, provided that such rules are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of this Society or with the Constitution and bylaws of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Rationale: Use the correct title for *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

CHANGES AT THE LANSING STATE LIBRARY

There have been many-many rumors concerning the State Library of Michigan, in Lansing. They have recently made several changes, which may not be in the best interest of genealogy in general. These rumors have damaged the library's usage. Many persons are under the belief that the collection no longer exists.

The genealogy collection has been moved to the State Archives, which has limited space for expansion (or perhaps none at all). Many genealogy books have been placed in closed stack. Worst of all, the hours have been cut back to match the hours of the Archives; namely 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and closed on weekends. This leaves no time for researchers who have jobs, outside their homes. I have spent many research hours at the library, and had to wait for the copy machines or film machines. This, at the time, was inconvenient, however, I now realize that that condition, is much better than having no access to the library at all.

This move has been explained as a protection of the collection, which was in threat of being moved out of the state library all together. This, as many of you know began with Governor Jennifer Granholm, whose concerns were not in the best interest of the general public, in this matter.

If the library would be closed a few days during the week and open on weekends, the client usage would improve. It is reasonable that more clients would mean more state funding. However, I was told by one librarian that a goal was to make the state library, strictly a government library. That maybe their goal for the space that the genealogy collection once housed. However, the number of government researchers will be considerably less than genealogy researchers, who used the collection in the past. We as tax payers, who support the state library, have a vested interest in the library and its usage, and we should have access to collections which are placed there to serve our interests. The Freedom of Information act, has a constitutional basis.

Another librarian told me that their focus (in the genealogy collection) will be only Michigan. However, most of us do not have the means to travel to New England, other states, foreign countries, etc. for our research. Many of

our local libraries, have Michigan collections, especially of a local nature. Our state library should be competitive with other genealogy collections, ie. Fort Wayne's Allen County Library. Our state library should exist to serve its citizens.

The current library focus is confusing (even to them) and we as tax-payers and genealogists should clarify it for them. I am asking you to write letters to your state representatives and to the addresses, which I am providing here.

Please make this a priority, for our future.

June Gorman, Michigan Mayflower Society State Governor

Please use the following ADDRESSES:

Nancy Robertson, State Librarian
702 West Kalamazoo Street
P.O. Box 30007
Lansing, Michigan 488909-7507

Governor Rick Snyder
Olds Plaza
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909
www.michigan.gov/gov
Migov@exec.state.mi.us
Fax: 517-335-6863
Phone: 571-373-7858

Michigan Department of Education
608 West Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, Michigan 48909

REMINDER – TIME TO PAY DUES!

“Membership Dues Notices **for non-Life members** were mailed to home addresses August 22. If you have not received your notice for 2013 dues and are not a Life member, please contact our Membership Secretary, Anne Burt, at (248) 549-0938. Please note that a payment of \$28 for annual dues by November 1, 2012 will save you a \$10 late fee.

The Michigan Society is billed by the General Society for all members of record as of December 31 each year. Preparing this billing on the heels of the holiday season puts an extra strain on the volunteers who make up your Board. We appreciate each and every payment which is received on time.

This year, a few check boxes have been added to the form. Would you prefer to receive your dues notice and/or the quarterly Michigan newsletter by e-mail? Check the appropriate box. Also, if you are serving in the active military, you may request that your dues be waived.

Send newspaper items to:
Newsletter Editor,
June Gorman
965 Hess Lake Drive
Grant, Michigan 49327

Send address changes to:
Membership Secretary,
Anne Burt
2907 Woodslee Drive
Royal Oak, Michigan
48073-2934

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FREMONT, MI
Permit No. 25

Address Service Requested

Descendants in Michigan
Anne Burt, Membership Secretary
2907 Woodslee Drive
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073-2934

