



# MAYFLOWER NEWSLETTER

Spring 2011

Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan

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## TOUR THE HOLLAND AND ENGLISH PILGRIM SITES WITH MICHIGAN MEMBER BONNIE VOKITS AT THE 2011 SPRING LUNCHEON



### **THIS SHOULD BE A VERY INTERESTING PROGRAM**

Michigan member Bonnie Vokits will present a power point/slide program outlining the 2009 Mayflower Descendent tour of England and Leiden. The tour, was guided by Barbara Williams and the Cosmos tour representative, Michael. They led the group through many historic cities, cathedrals and home towns of several Mayflower Pilgrim families. You will see such places as Canterbury, Cambridge, The Guild-house in Boston where Bradford and Brewster were jailed in an attempt to leave England for Holland. You will also have a chance to see the Elizabethan Gardens where the Pilgrims prayed as they made decisions about who would go and who would stay behind after deciding to take only 102 of the over 300 who had planned to embark on the journey, to the New World. If you have ever desired to take one of the Pilgrim tours frequently offered, or if you would like to tour these sites without leaving Michigan, this program should not be missed.

**MAYFLOWER BOARD OF ASSISTANTS, IN MICHIGAN**

(According to the By-Laws, Article IV)

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1898 Club Drive, Troy, Michigan 48098



Speaker Bonnie Vokits and the Brewster Bench

### **DATES TO REMEMBER ...**

- Spring Luncheon: Saturday, May 7th, 2011 @ 11:30 a.m.  
Kellogg Center, East Lansing, Michigan State University  
Board meeting prior to the luncheon at 9 a.m.
- Summer Board Meeting: August 6th, 2011 @ 10:00 a.m.  
State Room Restaurant  
Kellogg Center, East Lansing - Order off the menu
- Fall Compact Day Luncheon: Saturday, November 5th, 2011 @ 11:30 a.m.  
Kellogg Center, East Lansing, Michigan State University  
Staying? Reduced room rate \$99 if booked before  
October 5, 2011. You need to mention the Mayflower  
Society's reduced rate.

*We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors,  
we borrow it from our children.  
Native American Proverb*

## Thanksgiving Parade rejects Mayflower kin Lack of explanation riles historical organization

Jim Lynch / The Detroit News

*Detroit* — You might think an organization featuring the descendants of Mayflower passengers might be a natural fit in the 84th America's Thanksgiving Parade. That's precisely what the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan thought. But come Thursday, after being rejected without explanation, the group won't be in the parade down Woodward Avenue.

"We thought this would be a perfect match for our organization," said June Gorman, governor and historian of the group with more than [500](#) Michigan members. "If it hadn't been for our ancestors, there wouldn't even be a Thanksgiving."

Members of the nonprofit hit on the idea of participating in the parade last year and began their application process in the winter. The parade draws hundreds of thousands of spectators downtown along the 1.5 mile-long route. Society members hoped to field a group of eight to 10 members, dressed in period garb, to walk south on Woodward carrying the organization's banner. Earlier this year, the group allotted more than \$1,000 for costume rentals and the creation of a banner. In early fall, society members learned their bid had not been accepted, but no reason was given.

"What bothers me as much as anything is the lack of manners," said Cory Randall II, the society's previous historian. "When you have an organization that (only) meets quarterly but goes to the trouble to designate money out of its [budget](#) ... and can't even get (parade organizers) to tell you why you've been rejected, that doesn't seem right."

Anthony Michaels, president and chief executive of the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation, said there is nothing out of the ordinary about the group's omission. The foundation organizes and stages the annual parade. The Mayflower group is one of many not chosen to participate in the 2010 parade. Michaels said roughly 150 groups apply for 64 available slots. "We get hundreds of [applications](#) from groups and people — all kinds that want to be in the parade," Michaels said. "We're setting this up to be an entertainment-oriented parade, so we want to make sure everything has entertainment value." Among the new entries this year are floats from DTE, Blue Cross Blue Shield and Strategic Staffing Solutions. DTE has been a financial backer of the parade for years. The utility's entry this year will be titled "Energy and Our Future." Michaels said the Mayflower group failed to include a video and pictures with their application showing what their entry would look like. "There is a large demand (for spots in the parade)," he said. "And there are tons of people who don't get in each year. In fact, we still have people calling who want to be in this year's parade."

Randall said the failure of parade officials to explain the reason for his group's rejection is frustrating. "We sent at least three or four follow-up letters asking for an explanation so that, next year, we could apply properly or meet whatever the shortfall was," he said. "But nobody has answered us."

Michaels declined to discuss the Mayflower Society's application in detail.

.....Correction: June is not the Historian, that would be Thora Goodnight.....

## OTHER COLONIES IN NORTH AMERICA

We are all familiar with the Plymouth settlement, which was founded by Separatists and Anglicans in 1620, and the first sizable permanent English settlement in the New England region. But, what colonies already occupied the new land? Far to the North, Frenchmen had been living in Quebec since 1608. To the South, there was an English colony at Jamestown, founded in 1607 primarily by London entrepreneurs and was the first permanent English settlement in North America. In Florida at St. Augustine, a Spanish colony had been established since 1565. And, in 1606, the Spaniards colonized Santa Fe, New Mexico. Soon to follow were the Dutch settlement, New Amsterdam (New York City) in 1624, and the Puritans in Salem in 1628 and in Boston in 1630.

## THANKSGIVING

### Facts and Trivia

- Three towns in the U.S. take their name from the traditional bird, including Turkey, Texas (population 465), Turkey Creek, Louisiana (population 363), and Turkey, North Carolina (population 270).
- The first time the Detroit Lions played football on Thanksgiving Day was in 1934, when they hosted the Chicago Bears in front of 26,000 fans, at the University of Detroit stadium. The NBC radio network broadcast the game on 94 stations across the country—the first national Thanksgiving football broadcast. Since that time, the Lions have played a game every Thanksgiving, except during the war from 1939 and 1944. In 1956, fans watched the game on television for the first time.
- Sarah Josepha Hale, an enormously influential magazine editor and author, waged a campaign in 1827 to make Thanksgiving a national holiday. As a result of her tireless efforts, in 1863, Thanksgiving was observed as a day for national thanksgiving and prayer. She was also the author of the classic nursery rhyme, “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”
- In 2008, Thanksgiving travel dropped a precipitous 25.2 percent in the wake of the crisis in the housing and financial markets. AAA attributed the subsequent increase in travel to improved consumer confidence, better financial market performance and a growing sense among many consumers that the economic crisis is over.
- The cranberry, a modern-day staple of Thanksgiving, was originally called “crane berry.” It derived its name from its pink blossoms and drooping head, which reminded the Pilgrims of a crane. Contrary to popular belief, native Americans did not eat cranberries. They did, however, find them useful for dyeing fabric and decorating pottery.
- Thomas Jefferson thought the concept of Thanksgiving was “the most ridiculous idea I’ve ever heard.”
- Columbus thought that the land he discovered was connected to India, where peacocks are found in considerable number. He believed turkeys were a type of peacock (they are actually a type of pheasant). He named these birds, “tuka”, which is “peacock” in the Tamil language of India.
- A spooked turkey can run at speeds up to 20 miles per hour. They can also burst into flight approaching speeds between 50-55 mph in a matter of seconds.
- In October of 1777, all 13 colonies celebrated Thanksgiving for the first time. However, it was a onetime affair commemorating a victory over the British at Saratoga.

# PILGRIM CORN PUDDING

## *Ingredients:*

2 package (10 oz size) frozen corn, thawed and drained  
3 eggs, well beaten  
¼ cup unsifted all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon white pepper  
1 tablespoon sugar  
Dash of nutmeg  
2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted  
2 cups of light cream

## *How to Cook:*

Preheat oven to 325F.  
Lightly grease a 1½-quart casserole.  
In a large bowl, combine corn and eggs; mix well.  
Combine flour, salt, pepper, sugar, and nutmeg; stir into corn mixture.  
Add butter and cream; mix well; pour into prepared casserole.  
Set casserole in pan.  
Pour hot water to 1-inch depth around casserole.  
Bake, uncovered, 1 hour and 10 minutes,  
or until pudding is firm and knife inserted in center comes out clean.  
Serve hot.  
Makes 8 servings.

## *Variations:*

Add ½ cup chopped mushrooms...

Add ½ cup chopped...  
cooked ham...

You could **substitute** Half & Half or milk for the light cream...

According to family tradition, Mayflower passenger **Stephen Hopkins** was the inspiration for the character Stephano in *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare. **Stephen Hopkins** had been part of a famous Bermuda shipwreck that was one of the sources for Shakespeare's play.

See March 2010 Mayflower Quarterly Page 9.

NEW ADULT AND JUNIOR MEMBERS WILL BE LISTED IN THE SUMMER ISSUE OF THE MICHIGAN MAYFLOWER NEWS. PLEASE SUBMIT ANY FAMILY EVENTS; BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARYS, MILITARY, BIRTHS, FAMILY REUNIONS, ETC.. FOR THE NEWS

If you are a regular dues paying member in the Mayflower Society, we would suggest obtaining a LIFE MEMBERSHIP. The Life Membership would eliminate any consideration of future dues paying and would remain intact even with an increase in the annual dues. The cost of a Life Membership is \$400 for ages 18 to 40. After that, it goes down each year (depending on your age at November 1). If you desire more information about a Life Membership, please contact the Treasurer, Thora Goodnight (see page 2).

41....\$395	52....\$340	63....\$282	74....\$212	85....\$135	96....\$58
42....390	53.....335	64.....276	75.....205	86..... 128	97..... 51
43....385	54.....330	65.....270	76.....198	87..... 121	98..... 44
44....380	55.....325	66.....264	77.....191	88..... 114	99..... 37
45....375	56.....320	67.....258	78.....184	89..... 107	100.....30
46....370	57.....315	68.....252	79.....177	90..... 100	
47....365	58.....310	69.....246	80.....170	91.....93	
48....360	59.....305	70.....240	81.....163	92.....86	
49....355	60.....300	71.....233	82.....156	93.....79	
50....350	61.....294	72.....226	83.....149	94.....72	
51....345	62.....288	73.....219	84.....142	95.....65	

## ~ Diamond Jubilee Book Expanded ~

While doing the research for the Mayflower Quarterly 75th Anniversary book it was discovered that there was more information to be printed than originally thought. The General Society has approved a larger book of 400 pages in hardcover with 16 pages of color to be sold at the original price of \$50 plus \$12 shipping and handling. Mayflower Quarterly Editor Alice C. Teal and Assistant Editor Harry P. Folger 3rd continue to work on the preparation of copy. The book is expected to be printed in the Spring of 2011. Orders are being accepted at our Headquarters in Plymouth.

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