

MAYFLOWER NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015/2016

Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan

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CRAIG RICH'S SHIP WRECK PRESENTATION COMPACT DAY LUNCHEON

Craig Rich, Michigan Mayflower member gave a very interesting presentation on the shipwrecks between Pentwater and Holland, Michigan. There are an amazing number of shipwrecks in the Great Lakes, due to the severe and unpredictable wave action, especially of Lake Michigan. Craig and his team research and explore the depths of the lakes to find and identify the many wrecks in the lakes. A very important historical part of the state, the lakes become final homes to numerous wrecks which we were very unaware of. Craig created an interest which will bring this facet into our total knowledge of Michigan and its incredible history. Craig was available to autograph his two books on the subject, "*For Those in Peril*" and "*Through Surf and Storm*".



2015 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER, DAVID CRAWFORD

David Crawford, a descendant of William Brewster, was the 2015 Scholarship winner of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan. David wrote and illustrated a Mayflower novel, "*Seeds to the Mayflower*". His illustrations prove that he is very multi-talented creative person. He also included his ancestral lineage in the novel.

He became interested in Mayflower history thanks to his uncle, Ole Olson, who was his sponsor as a Junior Member.

His submission impressed the Michigan Mayflower Board so much that they invited him to become an adult member, as their guest. They also asked him to submit his entry to the General Society, however their entries must be in essay form, so his book does not qualify. Perhaps he can enter with an essay, we are hoping.

David will attend Grand Valley University. His novel will be available for sale at our two annual Mayflower meetings. Please support him by picking up a copy for your Mayflower library.

MICHIGAN MAYFLOWER BOARD OF ASSISTANTS

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

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***ASSISTANT:** (Newsletter Editor), November 2016

COUNSELOR: Mary Ellen Byrne (*past-governor), (mecb@acegroup.cc)

***Ex-Officio Board Members:**

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*Terry McKane, Past Governor

*Mary Ellen Byrne, Past Governor

*Cory Randall, Past Governor

*Leonard Decker, Past Deputy Governor

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ASSISTANT GENERAL (AG): Grace Smith, Deputy Governor

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Thora Goodnight, Treasurer (above); Mary Sue Markey, Assistant Treasurer (above);

June Gorman, Governor (above); Grace Smith, Deputy Governor (above);

Mary Ellen Bryne, Past Governor (above); Diane Sonneck, Historian (above).

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

OTHER OFFICES RELATED TO THE MICHIGAN SOCIETY

(These positions are not necessarily Board Members)

HISTORIAN'S ASSISTANTS:

Lee Bennett, Phone: 248-689-0561

4830 Carol Drive, Troy, Michigan 48085-3708

LEE.BENNETT@COMCAST.NET

Clara Vickers, Phone: 231-652-1399

773 West 68th Street, Newaygo, Michigan 49337-9791BLUE@CATS.NET**TREASURER'S ASSISTANT: (Luncheon Reservations)**

Mary Sue Markey, Phone: 989-274-4777

5702 Pondview Drive, Midland, 48640

FLAG CAPTAIN: Janet Ernst: Phone: 989-362-9686**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** June Gorman, See Page 2**WEBMASTER:** Grace Smith, See Page 2**SALES TABLE COMMITTEE:**

Johanna Balzer, (Chairperson) 517-484-3273

Clara Vickers, Bonnie Vokits

FRIENDS CHAIRPERSON:Cindy Schmitt, pjwhimsey@aol.com.**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**Dawn Laatz: *Ancestor: John Alden*Eric Bush: *Ancestor: John Alden*David Cheshire: *Ancestor: Edward Fuller*Dennis Daley: *Ancestor: Mary Chilton*Hans Agard: *Ancestor: Stephen Hopkins*Barbara Zizka: *Ancestor: Edward Fuller*Nancy Marks: *Ancestor: Isaac Allerton*Adrian Brady: *Ancestor: Richard Warren*Julie Meyers: *Ancestor: Thomas Rogers*Kathy Kerslake: *Ancestor: George Soule*Kevin Huston: *Ancestor: William Bradford*Ronald Cooper Jr: *Ancestor: Isaac Allerton*Lindsey Plummer: *Ancestor: George Soule*Terri Kleinschmidt: *Ancestor: John Howland*Vicki Friddle: *Ancestor: James Chilton*Robert Hubbard: *Ancestor: Isaac Allerton*Brittani Copley: *Ancestor: Stephen Hopkins*Evan Brady: *Ancestor: Richard Warren*Robert Funkhouser: *Ancestor: John Howland*Malachi McNeilus: *Ancestor: John Alden*Loring White: *Ancestor: William Brewster***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Our Society cannot function without the dedicated work of volunteers. On occasion, it is necessary for us to ask for assistance with certain tasks vital to the life of the Michigan Mayflower Society. Please consider giving your help.

SALES TABLE

The sales table needs help to staff the table before and after our luncheons.

If you would like to assist our society please contact the

Sales Chairperson, Johanna Balzer, Phone: 517-484-3273

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

The Michigan Society has materials to encourage the advancement of Pilgrim/Mayflower education.

Previously we had volunteers who presented related programs in local schools. If you are interested in working in this area, please let us know.

E-MAIL ADDRESS DATABASE VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We have identified a need for a data base to keep track of e-mail addresses of members who wish to receive their newsletters by e-mail. If you are interested in such a position please contact either the Membership Secretary, or Governor.

INSIGNIA CHAIRPERSON, To allow members to order insignia through the Society.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- 21 May 2016, Saturday, **Spring Board Meeting**, 9 a.m.
State Room Restaurant, Kellogg Center,
MSU Campus, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing,
Plan to order breakfast for a no room charge.
- 21 May 2016, Saturday, **Spring Luncheon**, 11:30 a.m.
Speaker: Dr. James McConnell, Magical Michigan Memories
Lincoln Room, Kellogg Center, Michigan State University Campus,
219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing,
Hotel rooms have been blocked for members. Mention SMD of Mich.
- 20 August 2016, Saturday, **Summer Board Meeting**, 10 a.m.
State Room Restaurant, (Olympus Room), Kellogg Center,
MSU Campus, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing,
Lunch off the menu for a no room charge.
- 8-11 September 2016, **General Society's Board of Assistant's Meeting**,
Columbia Club, Indianapolis Indiana
This will also celebrate Illinois' Mayflower 100th Birthday.
Indianamayflower.com
- 8 October 2016, **Fall Board Meeting**, 10 a.m.
State Room Restaurant, (Olympus Room), Kellogg Center,
MSU Campus, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing,
Lunch off the menu for a no room charge.
- 5 November 2016, **Compact Day Luncheon**, Michigan's election of new officers.
Speaker: Governor General Lea Filson to install Michigan's officers.
Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center, Phone: 855-652-7200
Frankenmuth, Michigan (See Above)
- September 2017, **General Congress**, Plymouth, Massachusetts
(specific dates to be announced), Delegates welcome
- 6-9 September 2018, **General Society's Board of Assistants**, Chicago, Illinois
(details to be announced)
- 3 November 2018, **Compact Day Luncheon**, 11:30 a.m.
Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center,
Speaker, Pilgrim John Billington, by Richard Pickering
- September 2019, Board of Assistants Meeting, Denver, Colorado
2020 Mayflower 400th Anniversary

Public Relations Secretary, **Bonnie Vokits** reports that she sent four press releases of new members who gave permission for the releases. Unfortunately none were published in local newspapers. Thanksgiving is always a special time for related press articles. Perhaps we will still see some participation. She received two obituaries of deceased members. The Public Relations Secretary maintains a scrapbook of press releases regarding our membership.

Friends chairperson, **Cindy Schmitt** reports that she has not yet received any interest from spouses of deceased members, or member's spouses who want to add their names to a data base of interested persons. We want to invite such persons (and Juniors who want to receive the newsletter) to contact Cindy, so we may keep contact with them.

The Silent auction was successful and enjoyed by members in attendance.

The most popular items were the books.

Two members made donations for future auctions.

Three small Mayflower china pitchers, by Karin Gorham.

Two pink "Families in Progress" books, George Soule and Richard Warren and one "silver book", George Soule, by Julie Meyers.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Terry McKane led the Memorial Service for our Mayflower deceased members.

The deceased members reported were:

James Mitchell, 1/1/2014	Eglantine Ford, 11/29/2014
Carol Ring, 4/7/2015	Mary Herman, 1/23/2015
Frank Barber, 4/10/2014	Cleo Rowley, 1/30/2015
Virginia Heller, 10/15/2014	Betty Styer, 3/8/2015
Marilyn Frade, 11/6/2014	Harold Johnson, 3/30/2015
Iris DiMercurio, 11/14/2014	Ruth Root, 4/1/2015
Patrice DeHann, 7/31/2015	

We invited, by letter, the spouses of these members, as Mayflower Friend's, to request our newsletters and luncheon invitations, so that we may keep in touch and enjoy their continued involvement.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT, CRAIG RICH

We have 868 Life Members and 525 Regular Members.

Also one transferred in, and 13 deaths.

NEW SUPPLEMENTALS ACCEPTED

Mary Ellen Vangoff: *Ancestor: Isaac Allerton*
 Mary Ellen Vangoff: *Ancestor: Richard Warren*
 Mary Ellen Vangoff: *Ancestor: Mary Norris, wife of Isaac Allerton*
 Patricia Ann Fuller: *Ancestor: Thomas Rogers*
 Lee Brickford Bennett: *Ancestor: Stephen Hopkins* **Diane Sonneck**, Historian

HISTORIAN'S FOR JUNIORS REPORT, PATRICIA BROWN

As of 7 November 2016, the Junior Membership stands at 642. Michigan is the second highest in Juniors membership, in the entire General Society; second only to the state of Florida. Twenty-seven Juniors will reach the age of 25 by the end of this year and may transfer to adult membership if the paperwork and fees are presented. We want to encourage their adult membership. Russell Dussett has sponsored 14 Juniors and Clara Vickers now holds the record with 26 Juniors sponsored. The Juniors sponsor application form has been added to our web-site. Patricia Brown, Historian for Juniors has instituted a birthday card program, to congratulate our Junior's birthdays. They are sent out in chosen years.

WEB-MASTER'S REPORT, GRACE SMITH

We have had 30,620 visitors to the web-site since its first launching in 2006, with 2,945 visitors in 2015. Visit the site for our Michigan data.....MichMayflower.org

**BOARD OF ASSISTANTS MEETING, FOXWOOD, CONNECTICUT
SEPTEMBER 2015**

.....A professional fund raising expert has been hired, part time, to install several fund raising projects for the General Society and to oversee the Fund Raising Committee.

.....The General Society hopes to have a special commemoration coin minted by the U.S. Mint for our 20-20 Commemoration. The local Native Americans have asked the General Society to use the word Commemorative rather than Celebration in connection with the 20-20 events, which was agreed to. A form has been included with your newsletter to send to your Federal Congresspersons to encourage this coinage act. Your personal participation in our/your event can be realized by taking the time to forward it to them. As a Mayflower Descendant this would be a great personal memorial for you to be a part of making this happen.

.....A 20-20 traveling exhibition will be available for any locality who is willing to pay the shipping and related costs for the exhibit.

.....It was announced that Mayflower II ship is open for over-night stays by groups of 10-20 persons. The Plimouth Plantation has to be contacted for reservations and costs.

.....The renovations on the Colonial Revival style Mayflower House continues. The house has been valued (by today's standards) at 4-5 million dollars. During the present renovations it was discovered that the current clapboard siding covered the original sand-painted fake block siding.

.....The Mayflower House and Library staff have not received a cost-of-living raise for several years so this year they were given a 2% wage increase. A fringe-package addition to their benefits is in future plans.

.....Income for the 2014 auction of the Mayflower House collection, was just over \$80,000. We were assured that the items sold were duplicates, items not on display, and not items in the regular house collection.

.....Several very large monetary gifts were given to the General Society. Only 4% of the Endowment Funds are spent by the General Society leaving the principle untouched.

.....If Mayflower members would like a monthly e-mail blast of General Society information, one may supply the Mayflower office with an e-mail address.

.....The new William Brewster, Silver Book, Volume 24 has been published.

.....Among several projects, the Member-at-large for our Michigan district, has indexed the memorial bricks in the Mayflower House and Library walkway, so that persons looking for a certain brick can be easily directed to the location. All the members of the Board of Assistants were asked to share the story of how they became interested in their ancestors. He told us a very moving story; as a young boy he was taken on an annual visit to cemeteries all over the state. His mother planted geraniums on each of the graves. Being a young boy he questioned the project, thinking their time could be better spent. His mother replied, "YOU ARE NEVER DEAD IF SOMEONE REMEMBERS THAT YOU LIVED". This caused him and many in attendance to experience an emotional moment. I personally think this is the very best explanation I have ever heard in regard to the quest of our ancestral lineages.

I was one who had a moving emotional reaction, a reward for all the hard work of the hunt.

.....According to the Flag Captain, our comparable Michigan Mayflower flag is currently valued at \$1500.

.....Alice Teal, the Mayflower Quarterly Editor received the Outstanding Leadership Award.

.....Linda Hill, our Historian for Juniors, Patricia Brown's sister was awarded two awards; the Certificate of Commendation and Appreciation and also the first ever David Walker Lambert Volunteer Award for her work for the General Society. As you may recall Linda presented the program at the 2014 Compact Day Luncheon. She is a former Mayflower Governor for Texas and resides there.

.....The General Society gave three scholarship awards in 2015, First \$5000, Second and Third \$2500 each. Our Board suggested that our scholarship winner, David Crawford, submit his entry however, The General Society's scholarship award has to be in an essay form, and his was a published historical fiction book. We know with his talent he could write an exceptional essay regarding his uncle.

.....The female DNA project has successfully established a line for Priscilla Mullins, with 10 exact matches.

Continued on page 7.

.....Even though the 2015 European Pilgrim tour was cancelled due to low numbers, there is a 2017 Europe Pilgrim site tour planned. Information should be included in future Mayflower Quarterly magazines. One may also call the Mayflower Library Office for information in the future.

.....The current turnover rate for new member applications is ten to eleven weeks. The office receives over 100 application papers per month. In 2014 the number of applications accepted were 1425, and in 2015 there have been 1518 accepted to the end of August.

.....June Gorman attended the Historian's Workshop, in an effort to explore ways to assist Diane Sonneck, the Michigan Historian.

.....The Mayflower Society is considering accepting DNA proofs, but not in the near future.

.....June Gorman, Governor has been accepted to the Anthropological Project of Coles Hill, chaired by George Garney. The Cole's Hill project includes the restoration of the crypt located on the top of Cole's Hill above the Pilgrim Rock. The Mayflower Society was responsible for having the Crypt/Sarcophagus built in 1921. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Department of Conservation will over-see the project and a letter of intent has to be submitted to them. The Mayflower Society is now a finalist for a \$18,000 grant for their project. The General Society would then be responsible for 1/3 of the cost of the restoration. Another of the goals is to have the remains in the crypt examined for the DNA to perhaps establish the identity of those buried there. Many of the remains of the early deceased Pilgrims were placed in the locality because the settlers did not want the Native Americans to know just how many had died of the great illness.

.....Deputy Governor, Grace Smith is a member of the Educational Committee and attended all the Educational Committee meetings.

Respectively Submitted, June Gorman, DGG for Michigan, attending.

REGARDING A 20/20 COMMEMORATIVE COIN

Please send a letter/e-mail to your

.....United States Representative regarding Bill HR.2980, sponsored by Representative Bill Foster, titled "To Require the secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of arrival of the Pilgrims".

.....United States Senator regarding Bill S.1715, sponsored by Senator John Hoeven, "A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasurer to mint coins in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of arrival of the Pilgrims. Make a photo copy of the letter below and mail it to your congressman.

RE: H.R. 2980 and S.1715, the "Mayflower Commemorative Coin Act"

Dear Congressman

I am writing to urge you to become a co-sponsor of the bill "the Mayflower Commemorative Coin Act". The proposed coin will honor the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Proceeds from a surcharge on the sale of these coins will assist the financing of the educational, scholarship, and outreach programs of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

There are numerous reasons to honor and commemorate the voyage of the Mayflower. The arrival of the Pilgrims in 1620 is a keystone event in American history, one that is studied by almost every grade school student in the country. And the manner of their arrival was the impetus for one of the foundational documents of our system of government: the Mayflower Compact.

Having arrived north of the boundary of their official charter, fare-paying Mayflower passengers (called "Strangers" by the Separatist Pilgrims) suggested that the charter's authority no longer applied to them. The ensuing crisis led to the signing of Mayflower Compact, establishing a "civil body politic." The Mayflower Compact is widely considered our nation's original written expression of the principle of self-Government, with influence that extends to both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. Every American.....regardless of their own country of origin, faith tradition, or personal family history..... is the beneficiary of this legacy.

Please contact the bill's introducer, Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL), or Mr. Gary Timmins in his Office, to indicate your desire to co-sponsor H.R. 2930. The companion bill in the Senate, S. 1715, is sponsored by Senator John Hoeven (R-ND).

Thank you very, very much for your kind consideration of this resolution.
Very truly yours,

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

Send address changes to:
Membership Secretary,
Craig Rich
120 West 23rd
Holland, Michigan 49423

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

AFTER 10 DAYS RETURN TO:
Descendants in Michigan
Craig Rich, Membership Secretary
120 West 23rd
Holland, Michigan 49423
FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

