

Mayflower Education Gazette

Volume I Issue 4

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Please share this with your local education committee members. We plan two or three (or maybe more) newsletters a year with helpful hints for displays for your meetings, sewing hints and patterns for making outfits, informative articles and whatever else you request.

It is important to focus on multigenerational presentations. Our members all appreciate reminders of forgotten facts as well as new lore. Your input, suggestions and constructive critiques are always welcomed.

In this issue we are presenting our fourth clothing article.

The Clothing Project

Women's Waistcoat

by Ellen Swayne

Now for the women's waistcoat. We have built up to this clothing piece for your outfit, starting with the apron and the moving on in complexity through the shift. Now we address the perhaps, well yes, most challenging piece of the women's outfit. Let's look at a few design particulars.

First, you might think about color. Pictures are worth a thousand words. If you do a computer google images search for 'plimoth clothing' you will find pictures of many outfits on interpreters at Plimoth Plantation.



Notice the variations and similarities. The colors, as we discussed in Issue 2 of this newsletter, are many. Some of the waistcoats have contrasting colors in their trims. Some waistcoats have no trim. Important to notice is that the colors are muted. Dyes at that time were natural, more muted than options today, and garments often faded as well. So, with all this in mind, select a color.

While observing all the photos from your google search, notice the waistcoat's general style. It is a fitted garment, shaped in at the waist. This shaping is accomplished by sewing triangular pieces called gussets into the 'skirt' of the waistcoat. The neckline is plain. The sleeves are slim, capped at the top by 'wings.' The front is closed by a row of many buttons, or hidden hooks and eyes, or tied ribbons. Some waistcoats have trim embellishing the seaming. Some have contrasting thread as a sort of top stitching. These are all choices to have fun considering for your waistcoat.



Next, there is fabric. Most of us will be wearing our outfits indoors with modern heating. A wool waistcoat can be too warm for the wearer. Linen or linen-weight cotton are better options for comfort.

Now, for the pattern. Much to our and your disappointment, there is no commercially available pattern for a women's early 17th century waistcoat. There are some for earlier times (Elizabethan) or later (Cavalier), but not one exactly for us. We do have options. First, perhaps you have a nice fitting modern jacket pattern that could be adapted. This can work quite nicely. Another option is to use a commercial historical costume pattern that can be tweaked a bit. Reconstructing History (www.reconstructinghistory.com) offers some. A third option is to draft a pattern yourself from Janet Arnold's book *Patterns of Fashion*. Whichever option you choose will require some adjustments, trying on, and further adjustments, so we recommend that you start out using muslin. Mary Brown has done this and then used the resulting piece as a pattern for the final garment and as the lining for the waistcoat.

Making the women's waistcoat is a fun project. Mary and I have made several, each time changing our approach a bit, tweaking here and there, and having fun with it. We wish you a fun adventure as well. If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments as you go along please feel free to contact either of us. We would like very much to hear how your project is progressing.

Mary Brown mbrown06239@gmail.com and Ellen Swayne eswayne@comcast.net

Field Trips and Workshops

by James Battles

One of the challenges that each of our partnering Mayflower societies face is developing and carrying out meaningful educational opportunities for all of our members and the public. At the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Maryland we have introduced two types of educational activities for our members, family field trips and educational workshops for our adult members.

Family Field Trips

As a way to encourage family historical outing we have introduced what we hope will continue to be an annual event, the family field trip to a historical site or event somewhere within the state of Maryland. In June 2015 we along with the District of Columbia Society, sponsored a family field trip to historic St. Mary's City the 17th century site of the founding of the Colony of Maryland.



The trip allowed participants to step back to the 17th century for an unforgettable experience on the site where Maryland began. Historic St. Mary's City is a delightful mix of living history encounters, hands-on activities, archaeology, and nature trails. The exhibits included the Godiah Spray Tobacco Plantation at Historic St. Mary's City is a re-creation of a typical 17th-century plantation. The Woodland Indian Hamlet at Historic St. Mary's City is a re-creation of a small Yaocomaco Indian hamlet typical of those found in southern Maryland in 1634 at the time of contact with English colonists. We also visited the *Maryland Dove* a reconstruction of the *Dove* of 1634, which accompanied Lord Baltimore's original expedition to Maryland. The *Maryland Dove* played the part of the *Speedwell* in the history channels production of the *Dangerous Crossing*. Visiting St Mary's City was the closest we could come to exploring how early 17th century colonist would have lived.

The family field trip was so successful that we have scheduled another field trip in October we are going sailing on board the *Sultana- Sultana* is a reproduction of a Boston-built merchant vessel that served for four years as the smallest schooner ever in the British Royal Navy.



The SULTANA is based in Chestertown, Maryland one of America's best preserved historic seaports serving the Chesapeake Bay. We will also participate *Sultana's* Downrigging Weekend Tall Ship and Wooden Boat Festival is one of the largest annual Tall Ship gatherings on the East Coast. Visitors to festival can expect to see a waterfront packed with ships, schooners, and wooden boats; performances by world-class musicians; lectures by nationally recognized authors and filmmakers; plenty of opportunities to go sailing as part of a fleet of "Tall Ships."

There are all kinds of historic site in each of our states, the challenge is to find them and to make use of them to engage our Mayflower families including our junior members in exploring our local history. We have provided our two field trips as examples of what we are doing. We encourage other partner societies to let us know what education field trips you are doing or plan to do.

Workshops

Another educational activity that we have introduced in Maryland is a Genealogy Workshop

How to Publish Your Family Story. This hands on workshop was designed help our members get started in publishing their own family story. New technologies of print on demand and desktop publishing have made it possible to actually publish our own families' history. We all have facilitating family stories that we need to write down and share with our families so they can appreciate their rich family history. The workshop was led by Governor James B Battles and Deputy Governor, Timothy D. Mallory both veterans of self-publishing family histories.

Objectives of the Workshop

- To provide a background on self-publishing and on demand printing of genealogy books
- Selecting a self-publishing vendor
- Determining what you need to get started both hardware and software
- Formatting and lay out design of your book
- Genealogical formats
- Dealing with images and picture
- Putting it all together for publishing
- Uploading your files to the publisher

We held the first workshop in January and it was so successful that will repeat it again in the fall. A workshop on self-publishing can be a very popular activity for our members. Is there anyone in your society who has published their family history and might be willing to teach others how they did it?

*editor's note, Jim and Tim have a power point presentation that they would share.
mdmayflowergovernor@gmail.com

Reading List and Books Display

by Ellen Swayne

At each spring and fall meeting here in Connecticut, the Education Committee sets up a display for our society members to look at when they arrive. A popular one recently was a book and reading list display. On the table we had books of all sorts pertaining to the pilgrims - history, cooking, biography - for adults and children. We gathered these books from our own individual home libraries, and quite a collection we had! All the book titles were typed up onto a list which we copied and put out in a pile on the table for members to take home. We also provided some pencils so titles of interest could be marked and noted. Our members enjoyed looking at the books and marking ones they liked on the list, all set to seek out the books at local libraries or online.

This display was easy to put together and was well received by the attendees at the lunch meeting. We suggest it with enthusiasm for you to try at a meeting in your state. Below is the book list we used. Please feel free to use and adapt it for your book display.

A Collection of Suggested Reading on Mayflower Pilgrims and Their World

Bangs, Jeremy Dupertius. *Strangers and Pilgrims, Travellers and Sojourners: Leiden and the Foundations of Plymouth Plantation*. Plymouth: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2009.

Beale, David. *The Mayflower Pilgrims*. Greenville, SC: Ambassador-Emerald International, 2000.

Bradford, William. *Governor William Bradford's Letter Book*. Introduction by John C. Kemp. Bedford, MA: Applewood Books, 2001.

Bradford, William. *Of Plymouth Plantation*. ed Samuel Eliot Morison. New York: Alfred Knopf, 1952.

Bunker, Nick. *Making Haste from Babylon: The Mayflower Pilgrims and Their World*. New York: Alfred Knopf, 2010.

Caffrey, Kate. *The Mayflower*. New York: Stein and Day, 1974.

Curtain, Kathleen, Sandra Oliver, and Plimoth Plantation, *Giving Thanks: Thanksgiving Recipes and History, from Pilgrims to Pumpkin Pie*. New York: Clarkson Potter, 2005.

Detz, James and Patricia Scott Deetz. *The Times of Their Lives: Life, Love, and Death in Plymouth Colony*. New York: W H Freedman, 2000.

Gaskill, Malcolm. *Between Two Worlds: How the English Became Americans*. New York: Perseus Books, 2014.

Glover, Janice. *Those Billington Boys: A Pilgrim Story*. North Eastham: Byte Size Graphics, 1994.

Goodman, Susan E. *Pilgrims of Plymouth*. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 2001.

Harness, Cheryl. *Three Young Pilgrims*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992.

Heath, Dwight B., Ed. *Mourt's Relation: A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth*. Bedford, MA: Applewood Books, 1963.

- Hodgkin, Godfrey. *A Great and Godly Adventure: The Pilgrims & the Myth of the First Thanksgiving*. New York: Perseus Books, 2006.
- Hope, Laura Lee. *The Bobbsey Twins at Plymouth Rock*. New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1956.
- Hornblower, Malabar. *The Plimoth Plantation New England Cookery Book*. Boston: Harvard Common Press, 1990.
- Horowitz, Tony. *A Voyage Long and Strange*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2008.
- Lee, Christopher. *1603: The Death of Queen Elizabeth 1, the Return of Black Plague, the Rise of Shakespeare, Piracy, Witchcraft, and the Birth of the Stuart Era*. New York: St Martin's Press, 2003.
- Main, Gloria L. *Peoples of a Spacious Land: Families and Cultures in Colonial New England*. Cambridge, Ma: Harvard University Press, 2001.
- McGovern, Ann. *...If You Sailed on The Mayflower in 1620*. New York: Scholastic Inc, 1991.
- McGovern, Ann. *The Pilgrim's First Thanksgiving*. New York: Scholastic Books, 1973.
- Muttart, William P. and Linda R. Ashley. *One Hundred & Eleven Questions & Answers Concerning the Pilgrims*. Montville, CT: Mayflower Books, 2009.
- Philbrick, Nathaniel. *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War*. New York: Viking Penguin, 2006.
- Ross, Katherine. *The Story of the Pilgrims*. New York: Random House, 1995.
- San Souci, Robert. *N. C. Wyeth's Pilgrims*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1991.
- Sherwood, Mary B. *Pilgrim: A Biography of William Brewster*. Falls Church, VA: Great Oak Press of Virginia, 1982.
- Stavely, Keith and Kathleen Fitzgerald. *America's Founding Food: The Story of New England Cooking*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2004.
- Stratton, Eugene. *Plymouth Colony: Its History and People*. Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing, 1986.
- Waters, Kate. *On the Mayflower: Voyage of the Ship's Apprentice & A Passenger Girl*. New York: Scholastic Books, 1996.
- Waters, Kate. *Samuel Eaton's Day: A Day in the Life of a Pilgrim Boy*. New York: Scholastic Books, 1993.
- Waters, Kate. *Sarah Morton's Day: A Day in the Life of a Pilgrim Girl*. New York: Scholastic Books, 2008.
- Williston, George F. *Saints and Strangers*. New York: Cornwall Press, 1945.

Call For Assistance

Now, we have a request for our State Education Chairs. What would you like to see in the Mayflower Education Gazette? To date we have provided four issues with what we think you would like, but I can't read your minds and would like to hear from you about your interests. Contact me at mbrown062639@gmail.com. Thank you.