

Minnesota Pilgrim News

1620 Society of Mayflower Descendants ▲

July, 2015

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Governor's Corner

**Marilyn Van
Patten Chuba**



Dear Members:

Summer is at last upon us! Everything that seems to have gone into suspension for the winter months has started up or started growing, and I'm ready for it.

This Spring has been a tough one for our Historian Nancy Pexa, as her husband passed away unexpectedly in March. Please keep her in your prayers and feel free to drop her an email with a word of support. Our email subscribers already know that we are actively looking for help for her. See the Editor's Notes on page 3.

You will soon be receiving your dues notices, which have been delayed this year because we have been updating our data bases and purging the names of ex-members and deceased members. This is very important because we pay an assessment to the General Society for each member, and we don't want to be paying for members who are not members any longer. So in the interests of accuracy and fiscal sanity, we took a longer time and really worked to clean this up. This was a major effort lead by our Data Manager Tracy Crocker, and he gets a gold medal for his work.

You will see on your notice that we are raising the dues this year. Neither we nor the General Society has raised the dues in many years, but our expenses have continued to rise. So last year at the GSMD Congress the Board of Assistants approved an increase in the per-member dues to \$15 annually for all adult members. The Minnesota Society also raised our dues by five Dollars.

There has been extensive discussion in the Board for several years regarding dues levels and which included

Governor, Continued on P. 2

Join us for our
Shallop Luncheon
Saturday, August 8th,
12 Noon

Featuring Our Own
Mark A. Campbell
*Also of Camp 56 of the Sons of
Union Veterans of the Civil War*

At the historic **Hubbell House**
Mantorville, MN

Mark, in addition to being our Captain, is the Secretary of Camp 56 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a heritage society dedicated to the memory of our ancestors who served in the Civil War 1861-1865. As members of the Mayflower Society, many of us are eligible for membership in this group also.

Col. William Colvill Camp is the only camp in Minnesota and provides perspective to augment the little American history taught in school these days.

Mark is going to discuss the multitude of heritage societies that are available to us and then focus on the Sons, what it stands for, and what it's doing to provide additional knowledge and perspective about what it is that has made us the nation we are.

The meeting will be held in the Hubbell House restaurant in Mantorville, which is discussed further on the back page. The menu is on the reservation form included in this newsletter. Even if your ancestors were Confederates, you will want to come for the lunch alone! The Editor will discuss the illustrious William Colvill himself on page two.

This presentation is another example of the historical talent we have in the Minnesota Society. Come; you will not want to miss it.

Minnesota Pilgrim News

Official Publication of the
Society of Mayflower Descendants
In the State of Minnesota

Editor: **James R. Mirick**
editor@minnesotamayflower.org

Moving? Changed your name or address?

If you have moved, changed your name, or if we don't have your correct address, let us know! Email Tracy Crocker at

tracy@tracycrocker.com

or mail to:

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Correspondence may be addressed to:

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Membership@MinnesotaMayflower.org
mayflowerhistorianmn@gmail.com
Treasurer@MinnesotaMayflower.org

www.MinnesotaMayflower.org

Internet Resources: There are many fine resources and websites available to our members and to the public on the Internet. We encourage you to use your favorite search engine to see what's there! There are also Mayflower-oriented social media sites on Facebook and many active mailing lists. ***Participate!***

Governor, Cont'd

an analysis of the dues for other heritage societies, and the GSMD's dues are just about the lowest of any of them.

This is not sustainable in the long run for several reasons, chief among them the required maintenance of our buildings in Plymouth and the need to hire and provide decent salaries and benefits to our dedicated staff.

There is a currently-tabled proposal to further slightly increase the dues over the next five years. This is an ongoing discussion and we will keep you advised of its status.

We have some excellent luncheon programs scheduled for future meetings, starting next month, and I hope to see each of you at them!

Sincerely,
Marilyn Van Patten-Chuba
Governor

Thoughts from the Editor

Greetings. I second the Governor's welcome for a fine and somewhat overdue summer! Now that I think of it, it's too fine a day to be inside working on this newsletter, so I shall be brief! (If only!)

Our program this month concerns the Col. William Colvill Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans. If you said, "who?" you would not be alone. Unfortunately William Colvill is not a name that slips off our tongue, but it should be. He was a genuine war hero and became a respected elder statesman in Minnesota, not passing away until 1905.

Colville was a native New Yorker who read law in the office of Millard Fillmore. He came to Minnesota in 1854, and established the Red Wing Sentinel newspaper. Then in 1861 he became the first person from Goodhue County to enlist in the Army. His war record was exemplary: he was part of the First Minnesota Infantry, and participated in the Battle of Bull Run, the Seven Days Battle (where he was first wounded), Antietam, and the Battle of Haymarket (where his horse was shot out from under him).

Then came Gettysburg. Colville was now the commander of the First Minnesota. I am sure we all know the story of the First Minnesota's gallant charge at Cemetery Ridge that prevented the Union's loss of this critical point. That charge was led by Colvill, who was wounded three times.

After the war, Colvill served in the Minnesota legislature, as Attorney General, and as the Registrar of Deeds in Duluth. He later homesteaded in Grand Marais, up on the North Shore, where the community of Colvill was named after him.

As it turns out, Colvill married Elizabeth Morgan, a descendant of William Brewster, so his good luck was not all on the battlefield. If we can claim a native New Yorker as ours, then I guess we can then also claim him as a proxy Pilgrim, and with some considerable pride.

I have noted in recent days that a woodchuck has taken up residence in my yard somewhere. I have seen him waddling around inspecting his domain. The name woodchuck is from a Narragansett word *wuchak* which means, well, one of those things. That's better than what the settlers generally called them, which was "whistle pig." The Narragansett were, of course, the tribal confederation that were present when the Pilgrims landed.

Jim Mirick, Editor

The Chronicles

*Of the Historian – Nancy Pexa,
Minnesota State Historian
Volume 27 Number 3*

New Members approved by
Historian General Marjorie Hurtuk:

From (various!)

Susan Guion Davis Flygare

Diane Susan Krejci Sullivan

Katherine Mae Erickson Adamcsek

Nicholas John Petersen

Bridget Louise Cullen

Ronald Kale Utley

The Editor notes:

As Governor Van Patten Chuba noted earlier, Nancy Pexa suffered the loss of her husband and has completed the work she had before her, leading to these new members, but I am missing some data we would normally print herein. So these people will be properly recognized in the next issue.

This points out the need for some additional help for the Historian. Our practice has always been to have several helpers / assistants available, and now at the worst time, we have none. This is not deeply technical genealogy; it's mainly helping prospective members get their ducks in order before submitting their paperwork. If you would like to help out, please email the Governor.

Surgeon's Report – Gudrun Mirick, MD

Humans are very poor at assessing the risks in our lives: we worry about infrequent dangers, and seemingly ignore the constant dangers that surround us. We tolerate over 30,000 motor vehicle deaths per year, but freak out when there's a shark attack somewhere, and swear never to go near the ocean again. So what things are really dangerous? Let's look at the Centers for Disease Control's reports and see.

Hands down, the smallest things are the deadliest: insects. Bees, wasps, and hornets manage to kill about 58 people per year in the US, mostly from going into venom-induced shock.

Domestic dogs kill an average of 28 people, and cows (!) kill another 20. Cows? And most other mammals together, mainly deer and moose, kill about 52 each year. Most of these are from collisions that result in wrecks. And non-venomous arthropods (mainly ants) manage somehow to kill nine every year.

So then at the bottom of the list are the things you would probably put at the top of your worry-list. Spiders (black widows and brown recluses) kill only seven people, and poisonous snakes only six. Most of these are either the very young or the very elderly or those who foolishly delay getting treatment, since anti-venom exists for all of these.

Surgeon, cont'd p. 5

Treasurer's Report – Dustin Mirick

As Marilyn has noted, you will be receiving your 2015 dues notice in the mail shortly. Next year we will be shipping these out to email subscribers. We hope at that time to have implemented an option for you to pay electronically with PayPal. We are nothing if not up-to-date.

On the subject of up-to-date, we will be replacing our Treasurer's laptop computer this summer. This machine is over five years old and its disk drive and or drive controller is failing, and in the way of all things it would be more expensive to fix it than replace it. We shall therefore follow the path of least resistance and so replace it.

We have now converted completely to QuickBooks as our accounting software. Being able to have that and its associated data files move from treasurer to treasurer is very beneficial. In the past we had some issue with this as successive treasurers tended to keep the books their own way, and their successors didn't always agree with the former treasurer's approach. Now we are standardized and all is well, or at least much better.

Finally, please note that it costs us just about \$1,000 per issue to print and mail every issue of this newsletter! To each email subscriber, zero. So please consider switching to email delivery!

The 2015 Minnesota Society Board of Assistants

Continued from the last issue



Jennifer Parker, Secretary

Jenny has been a member of the society since 2012 and joined the Board of Assistants as a member at large in 2013. She spends her days as a middle school administrator at Falcon Ridge Middle School in Apple Valley. Before moving to the "main office" four years ago, she was a 7th grade American History teacher for 14 years. In her spare time, she enjoys knitting, traveling (hoping to get back to Africa, someday) and volunteering through her church and her local DAR Chapter. She spends every minute she can with her niece, Nora, who was born September 2014, and is the 12th generation descendant from Stephen and Elizabeth Hopkins in her family.



Dolores Shellum, Deputy Governor General

Dolores describes herself as a mother and grandmother first and foremost. Even the Mayflower society comes after her family! She has three children, six grandchildren, and two-and-a-half great-grandchildren. She graduated from South High in Minneapolis, and then trained as an audiologist technician and OSHA-compliance technician. She worked for 14 years in audiology at the Minneapolis VA hospital, preparing veterans to receive hearing aids. She retired in 1993. She was a past governor of the Edward Doty Society, and has served us as Governor, Assistant General, and is now Deputy Governor General. She enjoys "little short vacations" to see other cities around Minnesota.



Mark A. Campbell, Captain

Mark is a retired federal housing official who adopted genealogy and heritage societies as his retirement pastime. Born in Michigan, Mark's 2007 retirement afforded him the time to do the research he had started many years ago. He has built some lines as far back as the 10th century.

Mark serves as an officer in his Masonic lodges, as a board member of the Metro Friendship Foundation – an autism support funder, and as secretary for the Col. William Colvill Camp No. 56 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Mark and his wife Leila live in Bloomington within blocks of the Mall of America.



Gudrun Mirick, Surgeon

Gudrun is the newest Board of Assistants member and is a proud 3rd generation Mayflower Board participant, following her father Jim, uncle Dusty, and grandfather Bob Mirick. She returned to Minnesota three years ago after many years primarily on the east coast for schooling. She is an orthopaedic surgeon specializing in trauma (broken bones) and works at Hennepin County Medical Center. Outside of work, she is involved with the Alzheimer's Association in their Blondes vs Brunettes flag football series, and enjoys travelling, marathon running, and watching her thoroughbred horses race at Canterbury Park.

More of our Board of Assistants



Ed Sheperd – Past Governor, Staff Photographer

Ed has been a member of the Society since 1983. He is a 10th-generation descendant of William Bradford. He first served as Captain, as Governor from 1992 – 95, and DGG for six years thereafter. After serving in the U. S. Army in West Germany, he pursued a career in television news, first in Kansas City and then KMSP-TV here as a news cameraman for 23 years. Along with his wife Sandra he created wooden Christmas ornaments as “Sheperd’s Woods.” Now retired, he continues to be active in digital photography, woodworking, and fishing at their cabin on Pelican Lake.



Marjorie Heggstad – Past Governor, At-Large Member

Marj was born in the Colby, Wisconsin farmhouse where her mother, her sister, and four younger sisters were born. Her mother kept a chart tracing the family lineage back to passenger Edward Fuller, so it was inevitable that she joined the Minnesota Society in 1995. She served as Governor from 2002 – 2005. She worked for 22 years as a teacher, then for another 22 years selling real estate in the Twin Cities. She and her late husband Wayne had three children, five grandchildren, and now an 18-month-old great-grandson. He lives in Duluth and can already say “hockey.” Whatever time she has left over she uses to make quilt-tops and stuffed teddy bears for the Knotty Quilters at Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church.



You?

We are a society of volunteers and nothing gets done without participation of the membership. As with the General Society, the state societies are governed and run by elected officers backed up by a Board of Assistants. Some of these board members have specific duties and others are “at large.” We are always looking for members who can spare a little time to be involved! You DO have something to add. Feel free to contact any board member.

Currently we have an opening for the position of Counselor, and also one or more people to serve as backups and assistants to the Historian. Contact the Governor if you are interested!

Surgeon, Cont'd

Now to the stuff you're really worried about, the things that make good movies and make your marrow freeze when you read about it in the newspaper.

Bears kill on average one person per year, virtually all of them in Montana or Alaska (Grizzlies). Alligators kill one, all in Florida, and mostly on golf courses (figure that one out).

And the dreaded sharks, one.

Where are you most exposed? I haven't adjusted this per-capita, but overall Minnesota is about in the middle, at 50 per year, mainly due to “other mammals” and cattle. Texas is the worst at 356. The safest states are Delaware, North Dakota, Vermont, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. In general, the greatest dangers are in the deep South, along the gulf, and this is pretty much true for all animal risks. California also scores high in this dismal index.

So there you have it! Relax and enjoy summer!

Some Pictures from the Spring Luncheon



Our speaker, Brian Sterline-Vete, introduces his fascinating film.



Governor Van Patten-Chuba seems suddenly unsure of something, probably the audience to stop talking.



Photographs courtesy of Staff Photographer Ed Sheperd

Spring Luncheon at Edinburgh

By Lorrie Link

Another beautiful day for the annual Spring luncheon at Edinburgh Golf Club. Speaker Brian Sterling-Vete presented his recent film about Robert Browne, an Anglican priest who was the founder of the Brownists, a common designation for early Separatists from the Church of England. Brian directed and produced the documentary about Robert Browne and his connection to the Pilgrims.

LilfordHall.com

“The Lilford Estate has at its heart Lilford Hall, a Grade I listed stately home over 500 years old and with 100 rooms. Grade I officially means an English house of outstanding architectural and historic interest. Sitting in its own 350 acres of parkland, the Tudor part of the house was built in the 1495, and the Jacobean part of the house was built in 1635. The Jacobean part of the house is regarded as a work of considerable significance, and Henry Flitcroft's Georgian alterations and additions in the 1740s are of a similar status. Hence the mansion is, like so many other similar English country homes, a wonderful *mélange* of styles.

The Hall and its Estate are best known for being the main family home of Robert Browne (1550-1633), 'The Father of the Pilgrims' and 'The Grandfather of the Nation' (USA). The Lilford Estate was acquired for the Browne (later Elmes) of Lilford family in 1473 by William Browne of Stamford who was famously referred to as “a merchant of very wonderfull richnesse”.

Lilford Hall fell into neglect for around 50 years after the senior line of the Baron Lilford's died out in 1949, with both house and grounds slowly deteriorating over that time. Intent on saving this magnificent property the Micklewright family, Lilford Hall's current owners and custodians, have developed extensive restoration plans to repair and restore the hall to secure its future for the next 200 years. Their comprehensive strategy can be viewed on their website.

Browse the 500 page website for a history of the Hall, including its unique connection to America, details of the families who have lived here, and numerous photographs related to the hall and its estate.”

Brian will have copies of the film available soon.

The GSMD Scholarship Committee 2015 Scholarship Winners

1st **Kevin Anthony Agostinelli** - \$5,000 award

2nd **William Keith Renken** - \$2,500 award

3rd **Andrew Ethan Mange** - \$2,500 award

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) Scholarship Program is offering one \$5000 scholarship and two \$2500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are Mayflower descendants and will be attending a four-year college or university or two-year community college.

In the spirit of the Mayflower settlers seeking to better themselves by moving to a new and uncharted world, special consideration will be given to applicants whose demonstrated commitment to bettering themselves makes them especially likely to benefit from the opportunities this scholarship will make possible for them.

ANCESTRY REQUIREMENT

For an applicant to be considered for a Mayflower Scholarship, the Application Form must include a valid GSMD membership number for either the applicant or for a parent, grandparent or great grandparent of the applicant.

If any documentation needs to be submitted to GSMD to obtain a current GSMD membership number, applicants should begin work as early as possible with the Mayflower Historian in their state of residence to complete this process.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Each scholarship recipient must be a graduating senior; must provide the information requested for the application; and must enter a four-year college or university or two-year community college.

All applicants must take the SAT or ACT, including the Writing Sample, at a time that will allow the results to be submitted as a part of the scholarship application. Though not an absolute requirement, recipients of the Mayflower Society Scholarships will most often be in the upper 10 percent of their class and score in the 75th percentile or higher on the SAT or ACT.

Information on the 2016 GSMD Scholarship will be posted soon.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Lorrie Link, Chair
2015-2016 GSMD Scholarship Committee*

Our 2015 Luncheons: August 8th, and the Grand Finale on November 14th!

August Luncheon Meeting at the historic
Hubbell House in Mantorville, MN.

Full credit to the Hospitality Committee for finding another both scenic and historic gem right here in the extended metro area for our meeting in August. The first Hubbell house was a log structure constructed by John Hubbell in 1854. The limestone structure you see now was built a scant two years later to handle the trade of travelers through the area. It has been well restored and has been in the hands of the current owners for over 50 years.

Mantorville itself is a quaint town a little way north-west of Rochester, a pleasant drive from the Twin Cities. You can take Highway 52 toward Rochester and then drop down Highway 57 through Wanamingo, or take I-35 down to Owatonna and go east to 57 on Highway 14.

There are a number of absolutely wonderful little towns in that area. Come join us for lunch and then enjoy a leisurely drive back home through a great part of the state!

The Board of Assistants

Just as it was with the Pilgrims, the Minnesota Society's business is attended to by a host of officers, including these:

General Society:

Deputy Gov. Gen. Dolores Shellum
Assistant General: Lorrie Link

Minnesota Society Board of Assistants:

Governor Marilyn Van Patten Chuba
Deputy Governor Russell Trout
Secretary Jennifer Parker
Treasurer Dusty Mirick
Historian Nancy Pexa
Captain Mark Campbell
Elder James Peet
Surgeon Gudrun Mirick, MD
Counselor (open)
Newsletter Editor Jim Mirick

Members-at-Large

Tracy Crocker Data Manager
Ken Veness Immediate Past Governor
Lorrie Link Past Governor
Herbert Doty Past Governor
Marjorie Heggstad Past Governor
Ed Sheperd Past Governor
Joan Yearous Past Governor

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Society of Mayflower Descendants

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