Due to social distancing and quarantine measures made necessary by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Annual Spring Meeting was cancelled and voting for the Officers and Board of Assistants took place by mail and online.

“So much has gone on in such a short time,” said new Governor Barbara-Lee Kelly. “Crazy times call for crazy solutions.”

She noted that the ballot put forth by the Nominating Committee was accepted by the membership, and on April 21, 2020, the new officers and board members were sworn in. “The nominations were published in The Compact. There were no objections or additions received from the membership. Officers and Board were sworn in on a conference call.”

Many of the festivities planned for the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower’s landing have had to be cancelled or postponed indefinitely, including the 42nd General Congress that had been scheduled for September 2020.

The Massachusetts Mayflower 2020 Commemoration Naturalization Ceremony planned for September 16 at Plymouth Memorial Hall has also been cancelled due to COVID concerns.

A rededication of the Pilgrim Mother Statue by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution is set to go on as planned November 14. See page 8 for details.
Greetings from Plymouth, Massachusetts.

As I sit on my porch on this breezy, sunny day, I reflect on the joy our ancestors must have felt after the first winter of 1620/21 had passed and they too could feel the warmth of the sun after a brutal winter. They persevered as we now do through these unprecedented times.

Here we are in 2020—I am delighted to be your new Governor. Even though we are off to a rocky start with what we now know as Covid-19, I am looking forward to brighter and happier times. I know that you all are as disappointed as I am that we have had so many cancellations for our long planned-for events to commemorate our ancestors’ arrival on these shores.

Our team here at MSMD, along with our honorary co-chairs Peggy Baker and Ann Young, had worked tirelessly to make the 2020 Naturalization Ceremony an occasion to remember. My sincere thanks to everyone who was involved in the planning as well as to all of the wonderful cousins from across our nation who were planning on assisting MSMD in our efforts.

Now the good news is that we are already in the midst of planning for the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the first Thanksgiving. The Massachusetts Society is responsible for hosting the General Board of Assistants Meeting in September 2021, and we are working closely with GSMD as we plan the events, working to reschedule some from 2020’s cancelled Congress. Those of you who volunteered to help out with the MSMD Naturalization Ceremony, please stand by! We will still need lots of help to be excellent hosts to the rest of the Mayflower societies. Don’t put away your Pilgrim attire.

One very special experience we began working on last year is a traditional Thanksgiving dinner to be held at Plimoth Plantation. It promises to be a moving and memorable event. As plans are finalized, you will receive additional information.

Finally, we welcome any ideas you may have for activities for adults and children, venues for our annual meetings and Compact Day meetings, or any other suggestions, including virtual events. Please feel free to share those with us. This is your society and we hope to be able to have activities that will be of interest to all.

Until we can meet again at our Compact Day luncheon in November, I wish everyone good health.

“2021: ARRIVAL TO SURVIVAL”
Welcome New Members!

Did you know?

Samuel Fuller sailed aboard the Mayflower as the ship’s only doctor and surgeon. After caring for the sick through the tragic first winter, Fuller went on to serve as the colony’s sole physician and as a church deacon.

In 1629, John Endicott, governor at Neumkeag (now Salem) wrote to William Bradford about an infectious outbreak. Endicott wrote that he had heard, “... That one of them at New Plymouth had some skill as a physician and had cured several of scurvy, and others of various diseases, by letting blood and other means.”

Endicott asked Bradford to send Plymouth Colony’s talented physician to Salem. Bradford complied, and Fuller spent time in Salem caring for the sick.

Upon Fuller’s death from an illness in 1633, Bradford wrote that Fuller “had helped others much” and that “he was a godly man, ready to serve his fellows.” Bradford added, “He was much missed after his death.”

New Members

Pamela Anderson
Deborah Baker
Christine Bragan
Charles Bragg
Peter Brennan
William Browne
Kimberly Carmichael
Jennifer Casey
John Chapman
Thomas Chapman
Betsy Chervenak
Stephen Clark
Barbara Cole
Nancy Colwell
Denise Cross
Cheryl Crossley-Simmons
Rachel Cunningham
Linda DeSousa
Cornelia Dougall
Janet Dunn
Paula Fisher
Judith Gale
Karen Gordon-Grube
Sally Gwin
Breanna Haddock
James Harper
Shirley Highfield
Cindy Holmes
David Holway
Lois Houghton
Laura Hussey
Kristine Infante
Kathleen Lewry

Mayflower Passenger

Richard Warren
John Howland
Samuel Fuller
Isaac Allerton
Myles Standish
William Brewster
Isaac Allerton
William Brewster
William Brewster
William Brewster
Richard Warren
Francis Cooke
Edward Doty
Henry Samson
James Chilton
William Brewster
Stephen Hopkins
John Alden
William Bradford
William Bradford
Isaac Allerton
Richard Warren
Henry Samson
William Brewster
Miles Standish
Stephen Hopkins
John Howland
John Alden
Stephen Hopkins
Francis Cooke
John Alden
William Bradford
William White

Continued on page 8.
Compact Day, 2019

Members enjoyed a pre-social distancing gathering at Compact Day, held Saturday, November 9, 2019, at Stone Forge Tavern, in Raynham, Mass. The event featured speaker Peggy MacLachlan Baker, who discussed Stephen Middagh’s Revolution.

Photographs by Cynthia Bailey Brown
Longtime MSMD member and former Governor Virginia A. Mucciaccio agreed to a socially distanced interview, and offers a treasure trove of memories and insights as the society moves forward amid the unique challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

When did you join MSMD and what prompted you to become so dedicated and involved with the society's mission?

I became a member in 1990, and the following year I found myself elected to the Board of Assistants. The current Governor was Harry Walen, and his wife Betty knew me from DAR. I had taken the State Chairmanship of the DAR Good Citizens Committee after Betty, and she was pleased with the work I had done following her. I sat quietly on the Board for a year or two, getting to know the workings of the Mayflower Society—different from DAR where I had been a 30-year member. My first committee assignment was on the Entertainment Committee, helping to set up the luncheon meetings and greet the attendees, which was a wonderful way of getting to know the members and learn their names.

What is your happiest memory of your time with MSMD?

By 1996, I was elected to the Treasurer's office and I went to Boston every two weeks to sign the checks and reconcile the bank statements. This was “getting my feet wet” on the inside. It was also the 100th birthday of MSMD, and a wonderful trip was planned to England and the Netherlands, following in the steps of the Pilgrims. The main purpose was to place a marker in the church in Shipton where the four More children, passengers on the Mayflower, were baptized. Their fascinating story had only recently come to life, and working with the Church of England, permission was granted to place the marker, made of Cumberland slate, above the baptismal font where the children were baptized.

Details of this momentous trip are too long to relate here, but needless to say, what I learned, and the emotions I felt as I walked in my ancestors footsteps made lasting impressions on me that have led to my deeper involvement in everything Mayflower.

As a past Governor and long-time active and dedicated member, you've seen the society through some challenging times. What stands out as a memorable or important challenge?

Being Governor was something I had never, in my wildest dreams, thought would come my way. When it was time for the Nominating Committee to prepare the slate, the Deputy Governor, whom they had hoped would go on as Governor, retired, and moved to New Hampshire, declining the nomination.

After perusing the rest of the board for someone to move up, they came to me. I had been working in the office for about two years, after my husband's unexpected passing, and had a basic knowledge of running a meeting, etc., as I had been involved in most of the activities. I was 72 at the time, a widow, free to come and go, and delighted for the honor of being asked.

I phoned my mother who was well into her 90s, to tell her the good news—and her first remark was, "Haven't you got enough on your plate?" I was State Treasurer for the Massachusetts Daughters of the American Revolution [my third term], a goodly responsibility. My reply was that I felt I could do both—and her reply was, “Well, you're going to do what you want to do!”

After I hung up, I started to giggle. Here I was, "free as a bird" with no family responsibilities, and wasn't I able to make my own decisions for myself? Well, in the long run, she enjoyed every minute of my term, coming to the luncheons and basking in my glory, and getting lots of attention from the members.

What stands out for me about my term are two major items—one, the formation of the Education Committee. This came about after a phone call to a member whose grandfather had put in all his grandchildren as Life Members, and I had lost two with bad addresses. She responded that her family had had a reunion that summer, and none of them knew who their Pilgrim was.

After a phone call to a member whose grandfather had put in all his grandchildren as Life Members, and I had lost two with bad addresses. She responded that her family had had a reunion that summer, and none of them knew who their Pilgrim was.

There was no contact with these young people over the years, so we established the sending of a book, age appropriate, about the Pilgrims, to all Life Members ages 6 to 14. This has been so well received, that it eventually led to the formation of the Junior Committee, whose members receive the same mailings.

What stands out for me about my term are two major items—one, the formation of the Education Committee. This came about after a phone call to a member whose grandfather had put in all his grandchildren as Life Members, and I had lost two with bad addresses. She responded that her family had had a reunion that summer, and none of them knew who their Pilgrim was.

It is so important today, with the lack of teaching history in the schools, that the young people know of their unique heritage so they can pass it on to their children.

Continued on page 7.
Applying the brakes says strongly, "Please," I implored like a petulant child. "I’ll only take a quick look so I can get the lay of the land. Nothing more. Ten minutes. Tops."

She begins pulling the car over to the side of the road and while applying the brakes says strongly, "Ten minutes." I scrambled out of the car, practically before the tires stopped rolling on the gravel, and ambled across the busy street and into the dewy grass of this ancient and sacred hill. As promised, I was going to briefly walk among a few rows of headstones, look at some names and generally get the lay of the land. I often do this. My first visit to a new cemetery usually involves a brief walk allowing me to gauge the scope of the task before me and to better understand the layout of the grounds.

No sooner had I walked among two or three rows of this significantly large cemetery when I felt an invisible tug towards the center of the graveyard. A tree caught my interest and I thought I’d go have a look. On my way, I stopped and looked at a couple of stones, but my attention was 500 hundred yards ahead, and I knew the clock was ticking. Given my time constraints, going too far didn’t make a lot of sense but I continued making my way there. As I walked, I was inextricably drawn to a line of stones far in the distance. I followed this intuition.

You might well guess the end of this story. That’s right. I walked right up to a stone, looked down, and much to my surprise and delight, there was James Gorham, Sr.’s headstone. I was stunned but also elated.

After taking a few hurried pictures, I quickly made my way back to the car, under the original ten minute expectation, where I found my waiting friend. "You’re not going to believe this...", I said.

From James Gorham, Sr.’s gravesite I made my way to the grave of his mother, Desire Howland. I was told she was buried in Cobb’s Hill Cemetery, but over time her stone had succumb to the elements. I visited her cemetery but never found her grave, nor did I find the grave of her husband, John Gorham, who died as a result of wounds suffered in the Great Swamp Fight in King Phillip’s War.

Finally, I visited John and Elizabeth’s memorials. First, I visited Elizabeth’s clearly marked gravesite in East Providence, Rhode Island, and then I took a trip to visit John’s memorial. I’m led to believe that John’s exact burial site is unknown to history but he is likely buried somewhere on Burial Hill near his memorial stone. I culminated my gravestone search at John’s memorial.

Visits to both of these final sites brought to completion a summer of joyful discoveries and connections with some of my Howland ancestors. I, indeed, learned something of how they lived, where they lived, and a little bit of the fabric of each person’s life.

After all was said and done, I visited Pine Grove Cemetery in Brewster, MA; North Burial Ground, Providence, RI; Bayview Cemetery, Sandwich, MA; West Barnstable Cemetery, Barnstable, MA; Ancient Cemetery, Yarmouth Port, MA; Cobb’s Hill Cemetery, Barnstable, MA; Lothrop Hill Cemetery, Barnstable, MA; Ancient Little Neck Cemetery, East Providence, Rhode Island, and Burial Hill Cemetery, Plymouth, MA.

Joshua Gray’s story piqued my interest for two main reasons. First, Joshua was a captain of a packet ship which sailed between Yarmouth and Boston. Second, he was the son of another Captain Joshua Gray, a Revolutionary War officer. I found this fascinating. From Joshua Gray, packet ship captain, I encountered his mother, Mary Hedge. Her husband, Captain Joshua Gray, was, as I mentioned, a Revolutionary War patriot. I found these graves in the Ancient Cemetery in Yarmouth Port. What was life like for a woman in the Revolutionary War? I thought to myself as I discovered these graves.

From there, I visited the graves of Mary Gorham in the Ancient Cemetery, Yarmouth Port, MA, and James Gorham, Jr., in Cobb’s Hill Cemetery, Barnstable, MA. This was followed by a visit to James Gorham, Sr., in Lothrop Hill Cemetery, Barnstable, MA. Unbelievably, all of these ancestors are in a direct line to Mary Gorham in the Ancient Cemetery, Yarmouth Port, MA; and James Gorham, Sr., in Lothrop Hill Cemetery, Barnstable, MA; Yarmouth and Boston. Second, he was the son of another Captain Joshua Gray (1742-1791), wife of Capt. Joshua Gray (1745-1822), wife of Capt. Joshua Gray (1742-1791).
The second is having all of our application papers and the supporting documentation digitized to save space. The Mormon Church was approached as they were well known for copying church records far and wide all over Europe and in the United States. Scott Andrew Bartley was working in the office and he approached someone he knew, and the process began. They had never done such a program before, and a software program was developed specifically for us. A retired married couple worked one whole year, on their mission for the Church, copying nearly 500,000 pieces of paper. When we moved from Braintree to our current home in Hingham, we were able to eliminate nine 4-drawer files full of these documents. This information is privy to Massachusetts Mayflower. We continue to copy all new documentation to eliminate adding to our files.

We are facing unprecedented challenges thanks to the pandemic and social distancing measures. What role do you think MSMD can play to help us all feel connected?

The Massachusetts Society continually encourages parents and grandparents to enter their children and grandchildren as Junior Members, or as Life Members, so we can keep in touch with them through the Junior Newsletter and the book gifts. We now have 465 Juniors, and have added sending *The Pilgrim Chronicles: An Eyewitness History of the Pilgrims and the Founding of Plymouth Colony* by Rob Gragg, when junior members reach the age of 18. After much thought and research, our Education Committee thought this was an important addition to the program, so that as these students move on to colleges and universities, they will take with them an adult version of their heritage. These young people represent a true melting pot of nations as families grow and marry, bringing in new cultures to our Pilgrim descendants. We need to continue telling our story as generations grow, so our story will not be forgotten.

My Mayflower family and friends have become an important part of my life in the last nineteen years. With the sudden passing of my husband in 2001, it has filled a lot of time that I could have been looking at the empty chair. Working in the office, getting to know the members, becoming Governor, accepting the Chairmanship of the Awards Committee for the General Society, now in my 12th year with this job, I have become acquainted with members in the 50 states. I’ve traveled to the Boards of Assistants meetings from coast to coast—San Diego, Denver (twice), San Antonio, New Orleans, Orlando, Indianapolis, Chicago, Wilmington, Annapolis, New Jersey, and three Triennials in Plymouth. These adventures have brought me much joy as well as a sense of accomplishment.

Beyond this, my most unexpected election as Member-at-Large to the Executive Board of the General Society was an honor, and re-election for another three years put the frosting on the cake. Fondly known as the “Informed Contrarian,” most often I was the only member looking at both sides of the coin—from a society's point of view experienced sitting at the Massachusetts desk, and as a board member representing many other states.

Now that the frosting is on the cake—I have to put the cherry on top—the most unexpected, and biggest surprise of my Mayflower career was being presented the Governor General’s Distinguished Service Award in 2018, the highest honor given by the GMSD each year. It was one of my responsibilities to work with the Governor General in selecting the gift for this award, and only the GG and I knew who the recipient was until the exact moment of presentation, so when the GG decided he wanted to present it to me, there was much deceit and fibbing attached. When the moment arrived, needless to say, I was flabbergasted and there were many tears on my part to be so honored.

So, as I enter my 90th year, not knowing what the future holds day to day, I enjoy my job in the office, continuing to tell the Mayflower story, encouraging membership and welcoming new members. There is so much to learn about our ancestors and the challenges they met in the strange land they found themselves in, just surviving from day to day in the beginning, their adaptation to a new culture and surroundings, and building the foundation for a government so needed as the population grew.
Rededication Ceremony Planned for November

A rededication of the Pilgrim Mother Fountain by the Daughters of the American Revolution will take place on Saturday, November 14, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.

During the Continental Congress of 1920, the DAR voted to present a monument in memory of the Pilgrims and in honor of the 300th Anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower.

In 2019, a restoration of the fountain was undertaken in honor of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Mayflower and the women who were on board.

The rededication ceremony will be held at the fountain site on the corner of Water Street and North Street in Plymouth, MA.

Welcome New Members!

Continued from page 3

Lisa Libretto  William Bradford
Lisa Lindenberg  Isaac Allerton
Nancy Ling  Francis Eaton
Alden Lombard  John Alden
JoAnn MacInnis  John Alden
Susanne Mahaffey  John Howland
Joan McGee  John Alden
Judith Meyer  John Alden
Preston Moister  Richard Warren
Martha O’Connell  John Alden
Keith Perry  Mary Allerton
Helen Peters  John Alden
Dawn Reeves  Francis Cooke
Madeleine Roberts  John Howland
Michael Robey  George Soule
Steven Ryall  William Brewster
Susanne Ryall-McAvoy  William Brewster
Marcia Scribner  Henry Samson
Mildred Seibert  William White
George Seibert  John Howland
George Sherwood  William Bradford
Barbara Silva  Edward Fuller
Betty Slechta  Richard Warren
Richard Small  Stephen Hopkins
Dwight Smith  John Alden
Frederick Smith  John Alden
Ralph Snow  John Alden
Janet Souza  Stephen Hopkins
Dianne Sterling  John Alden
Emma Stogsdill  William Bradford
Jennifer Stybel  Richard Warren
Barbara Swift  Francis Cooke
Laura Tilton  William Brewster
Alyssa True  Richard Warren
Karen True  Richard Warren
Nancy Mucciaccio True  Degory Priest
Catherine Valcourt Pierce  William Brewster
Sharon Varricchione  William Brewster
Christopher White  William Brewster
Rulon Wilcox  William Brewster
Catherine Williams  Isaac Allerton
Laura Wilson  Henry Samson
Richard Woodward  William Brewster

Continued on page 11.
The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the Francis P. Sears, Thanksgiving Day, and Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants 4-year scholarships.

Scholarship Committee Chairperson John Kelly noted, “We truly had an outstanding group of applicants this year for all three scholarships. The MSMD Scholarship Committee had some very difficult choices to make.”

He added, “In the end, we are proud to be able to award scholarships to these winners. All were highly ranked academically in their high schools and all had extensive involvement in their schools and within their communities.”

Francis P. Sears Scholarship:

Henry Alexander Mulholland
Topsfield, Massachusetts

Henry graduated from Masconomet Regional High School, Boxford, Massachusetts where he was an outstanding student. Henry also has had long and extensive involvement in his community, including his school, church, and Boy Scouts. He will attend Babson College in the fall and plans to become an entrepreneur.

John M. Marshall
Andover, Massachusetts

John graduated from Andover High School, Andover, Massachusetts. Besides being an outstanding student, John was heavily involved in sports at Andover High and has been recognized as an elite lacrosse player. John will attend Boston University, major in business, and play for the men’s lacrosse team.

Thanksgiving Day Scholarship:

Jade Adalena Araujo
Juneau, Alaska

Jade graduated first in her class from Juneau-Douglas High School, Juneau, Alaska. Jade was heavily involved in multiple student activities in high school and held positions of leadership in several school groups. Jade will attend Stanford University in the fall and is planning to study Political Science.

Kahlia King-Allen
Bridgewater, Massachusetts

Kahlia is a very highly ranked graduate of Bristol-Plymouth High School, Taunton, MA. Besides maintaining an impressive academic record, Kahlia also works part time as a nursing assistant. She will attend UMass Dartmouth and plans to pursue a career in nursing.

Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants College Scholarship:

Katherine Capri Joles
Zeeland, Michigan

Katherine graduated first in her class from Zeeland East High School, Zeeland, Michigan. She was heavily involved in many school activities as well as sports. Katherine also received multiple academic awards and recognitions during her high school years. She will attend Michigan State University in the fall and is planning to major in Fisheries and Wildlife.
400th Anniversary Commemorative Blanket

The Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants
175 Derby Street, Suite 13
Hingham, MA 02043-4036

Now available for purchase

Proceeds from the sale of this blanket will benefit the MSMD Scholarship Fund.

Product details:
- Dimensions: 50” X 60”
- Material: 100% polyester, machine washable, front is velvet-like while back is Sherpa-like.
- Design: Multiple scenes depicting historical events and sites of significance.

Price:
- $85.00 for pick up
  - Call (781) 875-3194 to pick up at Hingham office
  - Call (781) 856-5671 to arrange for pick up at a site on Cape Cod

- $100.00 to have it boxed and shipped anywhere within the Continental United States.

ORDER FORM

Name: _______________________________________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________________________________

Ship to name and address (if different):
Name: _______________________________________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________________________________

Please include a check made out to MSMD for the quantity and method of delivery you choose:

Quantity: _____ for pick up @ $85.00 each = $ ________________
          _____ for shipment @ $100.00 each = $ ________________

Total: $ ________________

If you prefer to use PAYPAL please check here _____
On September 17, 2020, the U.S. Post Office will release a “forever” stamp commemorating the settlement of Plymouth Colony four hundred years ago.

The stamp features a picture of the Mayflower beneath a setting sun, alongside a shallop heading to shore. The depiction, titled “Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor” was designed by Greg Breeding and features original art by Greg Harlin.

According to the U.S. Post Office, the stamp conveys “a scene of desolate beauty at the end of the Pilgrims’ long journey to an unfamiliar world.”

U.S. Post Office to Release Commemorative Stamp

New Book Release

The Mayflower Society House History

Deputy Governor General Susan Roser is editor of Former Governor General Bruce MacGunnigle's new book, The Mayflower Society House History. The 110-page volume features transcripts of old deeds, vintage photographs, and a history of the families who once owned the house.

The book was sent to the printer on June 1, and will soon be available for sale from the Mayflower Shop. All proceeds benefit GSMD!

Erratum:

On page 8 of the Spring 2020 edition of The Compact, new member Thomas J. Carson, Jr.’s residence and Mayflower ancestor are listed incorrectly. The correct residence is Little Compton, RI, and the correct ancestor is John Alden.

We regret the error.
Save the Date!
Saturday, November 21, 2020
Compact Day

The Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants is planning to hold its usual Compact Day dinner at Stone Forge Tavern in Raynham, Mass.

However, due to COVID-19 social gathering restrictions, the meeting may be held online via Zoom.

Watch for details in the next edition of The Compact.