

# New York Mayflower

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York Vol. 22, No. 1

## The Newsletter is Back!

After a brief hiatus, the *New York Mayflower* is back.

But the work of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York has always been moving full speed ahead.

In this issue, you'll find photos from the 62nd Mayflower Ball. It was a blast. Don't miss it this year, and mark your calendars now for Friday, November 4.

The Cousins Dinner, always a favorite among members, attracted a full house, and the attendees sat at tables according to each person's affiliated Mayflower passenger. Don't miss next year's Cousins Dinner. The date will be announced soon.

We have a report on new members. The Society's membership is growing impressively, thanks in large part to the hard work of Sarah Morse, our Executive Director.

Outreach to schools, the campaign for a 400th anniversary commemorative coin, a new president at the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, and news about changes in the line-up of Mayflower periodicals are the main topics of this newsletter. But probably most  
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## SAVE THE DATES

### SUMMER SOLSTICE COCKTAIL PARTY

June 23, 6-8pm  
St. Bartholomew's Church  
Community House

### FALL RECEPTION

September 21,  
3 West Club  
3 West 51st Street

### 63rd ANNUAL MAYFLOWER BALL

Friday, November 4  
University Club  
1 West 54th Street

### ALBANY COLONY

**Spring Meeting**  
Saturday, May 7

**Fall Meeting**  
Saturday, November 5  
Normanside Country Club

### BUFFALO COLONY

**Spring Meeting**  
Saturday, April 30, 12:30pm

**Fall Meeting**  
Saturday, November 5, 12:30pm  
Bohn's Restaurant

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important item is the **Campaign for Four Hundred.**

Of course you are aware that in 2020, a short four years or so away, Mayflower descendants will be commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the arrival of the Mayflower. An astounding landmark!

This is our opportunity to add an appropriate amount to our endowment: \$400,000.

Please consider a generous gift to the Society so that we can achieve our goal. We have had some unusually generous contributions, but to coin a phrase, an effort like this takes a village.... If everyone gives a reasonable amount, we will get there and more.

We hope you enjoy this issue and will contact us with ideas for stories and subjects you'd like to see covered in these pages.

## Officers of the Society of Mayflower

The Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Pike  
*Governor*

Reid R. Miles  
*Deputy Governor*

Jessica W. Jennings  
*Secretary*

Walter R. Brewster, Jr.  
*Treasurer*

McKelden Smith  
*Captain*

Stephen Bates Bullock  
*Surgeon*

J. Howland Robinson  
*Counselor*

Bette Innes Broadway  
Sarah C. Morse  
*Historians*

Arthur F. Young, Jr.  
*Elder, Deputy Governor for the  
State of New York*

Adelaide Perry Farah  
*Assistant General for New  
York State*

Reid R. Miles  
McKelden Smith  
*Newsletter Editors*

## Welcome New Members!

**January 1 to March 1, 2016:**

Richard Scott Bloomer

Sandra Barr Boyd

Erica Jean Bookman

James Richard Chamberlain

Kendall Wilford Davis

Karen Doty Clark

Alize Eliza Lyons Echhard

Nellie Jane Kerley Edmonston

Janet Margaret Grosshans

Alice Frances Leonard

Charles Frederick Malone

David Vernon Mitchell

Ellen Peck Nicoll

Emily Hill Parapanov

Ellen Bloomer Schneider

Ryan James Schneider

Thomas Robert Schneider, Jr.

Heidi Mohlman Tringe

# New York Mayflower

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## A Message from the Committee for Four Hundred

The 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims' first steps upon the North American continent will be celebrated in the year 2020—just four years from now. In honor of that occasion, and to help assure your Society's ability to continue to celebrate the legacy of the Pilgrims in future years, the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York has launched a capital campaign called the Campaign for Four Hundred.

The goal of the Campaign is both simple and ambitious. The New York Society seeks to raise the sum of \$400,000, which will be added to its endowment. We hope to achieve this goal by 2020, when the 400th anniversary rolls around. Achieving this goal will put the New York Society on a firm financial footing for the future, supporting our educational outreach programs and helping us perpetuate the memory of the remarkable courage, faith and kindness of the Pilgrims as their lives and deeds become ever more remote in time—but no less important or exemplary.

This Campaign is being guided by a Committee of members of the New York Society that is called the Committee for Four Hundred. Every member of the New York Society is eligible to participate in the Committee—all that is necessary is to express an interest and make a pledge to the Campaign. Committee membership will not involve any substantial effort beyond reading the occasional email and, of course, making one's contribution.

Although gifts in any amount will be gratefully received, we are recommending that members give at any of three specified levels—\$400, \$1,620 and \$16,200. Immediate payment of any pledge is welcomed, but to encourage the broadest possible participation it will be possible for members to specify that their pledge will be payable in installments over two years. We are denominating the three suggested giving levels as follows:

Pilgrims: \$400

1620 Society: \$1,620

Compact Society: \$16,200

We hope that all members of the New York Society who have not yet done so will consider making a pledge to support the Campaign for Four Hundred. We firmly hope and believe that with your help, the Campaign will succeed, and will enable the New York Society to fulfill its mission over the next four hundred years, and beyond.

Faithfully yours,

*The Committee for Four Hundred*



*Photo: Plimoth Plantation*

## 2015 Mayflower Debutante Ball

### **Eleanor Conway Coleman**

is the daughter of Irene Hewitt Conway Coleman and Daniel LeVert Coleman.

Eleanor is a descendent of Elder William Brewster and Mary Brewster through her late maternal grandfather. Her grandfather Hewitt A. Conway, Esq., is a former Governor of the NY Mayflower Society from 1973 to 1977.

On her paternal side, she is a descendant of William Strachey, First Secretary of the Colony of Jamestowne, who arrived there in 1610.

Eleanor shared her special evening with her family: her parents; her Aunt Louise; both grandmothers, Jeanne Conway O'Connor and Ingabord Coleman; Matthew Leaycraft, her godfather; and other family members and friends. Eleanor's mother and aunt are Mayflower members and both made their debuts at Mayflower Society Balls.

Eleanor is a Deans List student at the University of Vermont, and will be graduating in May 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Public Communication. Upon graduation, she will join PC Construction as a Business Development Specialist. Presently, she works part time at PC Construction as a Business Development Assistant.

When not studying or working, Eleanor enjoys trail running, kickboxing, making art of all types, surfing, playing with her rescue cat Peaches and volunteering at two organizations, which focus on environmental and social justice issues.



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Left to right: Daniel T. Coleman (father), Eleanor C. Coleman, F. Daniel Coleman (grandfather)



Escorts with Eleanor C. Coleman: Richard Felton (left) and Gardner Vickers



Past Debutantes from left to right: Emily Hill Parapanov, Samantha Miles, Anne Metrailler, Louise Conway, Irene Conway, Annie Badman, Sarah Morse Cooney, Sarah Moulton Faux, Susan Oliver Kerridge, Christina Madsen

Richard Pickering, Deputy Executive Director, Plymouth Plantation

## Your Chance to Be in a Parade

Are you planning a visit to Plymouth this summer in August? If so, as a Mayflower descendant or a Mayflower Junior, you and members of your extended family are invited to join the parade on the first four Friday evenings in August: 5th, 12th, 19th, and 27th.



This event, popular since its inception in 1921, begins at 4:15pm at the Mayflower House, where participants are given costumes representing the 51 survivors of the first winter.

The parade lead by the beat of a drummer and recreating the Pilgrims' procession to church, then proceeds to Plymouth Rock and then via Water Street and Leyden Street to Town Square and eventually to its conclusion at Burial Hill.



*Photo of the reconstructed settlement courtesy of Plimoth Plantation. Visit the settlement before or after the parade.*

## Outreach to Schools

The Mayflower Society's Outreach Program sends costumed interpreters into selected New York schools in May and October. Grades 2 to 4 participate. In the photo on the left, Malta Benjamin is on her way to a school program dressed in her period outfit. She will do four one-hour presentations per day, entirely in character, to bring the life and times of the seventeenth century to life. The cellphone is discretely out of sight during the presentations.

As Ms. Benjamin explains, "As a first-person historical interpreter, my job is to take on the identity of a real person who lived almost 400 years ago in order to create a fun and engaging portal for people to learn about history. My main character this year has been Mary Warren, who in 1627 is 17 years old. Since Mary Warren did not travel aboard the Mayflower, I play a different character when I work at Mayflower II. There, I play a woman named Dorothy who is an indentured servant to the Carver family.

"When I'm off-site presenting curriculum-based programming, I portray Goodwife Constance Snow (daughter of Stephen Hopkins), who traveled to the New World with her whole family aboard the Mayflower in 1620." This quotation was excerpted from a more detailed interview on [JewishBoston.com](http://JewishBoston.com).



## How You Can Help the Mayflower Commemorative Coin Initiative

by Joe Lillis

In 2015 the Mayflower Commemorative Coin Act was introduced in the House of Representatives and Senate. The objective is for the Mayflower to be commemorated in one of the two coins that will be minted in 2020. First, the coin will bring attention to the Mayflower quadricentennial; second, it will raise money for Mayflower societies across the country, the city of Plymouth 400 Committee, and certain Wampanoag interests.

The coins are legal tender but are sold for much more than face value to benefit sponsoring organizations. For information on these types of coins, visit [catalog.usmint.gov](http://catalog.usmint.gov). For example, in 2016 the U.S. Mint struck a fifty cent coin commemorating the centennial of the National Park Service, which sells on the U.S. Mint website for \$21.

You are asked to contact your representatives in Congress to support the selection of the Mayflower as a subject for commemoration in 2020. Senators should be asked to cosponsor Senate Bill S. 1715. Representatives should be asked to cosponsor House Bill H.R. 2980. Information on this effort and a sample letter is at [themayflowersociety.org](http://themayflowersociety.org) under the 2020 commemorative tab.

Joe Lillis, a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York, may be contacted for a list of New York House staffers and a copy of a sample letter: [JoeLillis@aol.com](mailto:JoeLillis@aol.com).

To email selected representatives and staff members from New York:

Sen. Schumer's Staff: Mike Lynch, Chief of Staff,  
[mike\\_lynch@schumer.senate.gov](mailto:mike_lynch@schumer.senate.gov).

Sen. Gillibrand's Staff: Jess Fassler, Chief of Staff,  
[jess\\_fassler@gillibrand.senate.gov](mailto:jess_fassler@gillibrand.senate.gov) or Brooke  
Jamison, Legislative Director,  
[brooke\\_jamison@gillibrand.senate.gov](mailto:brooke_jamison@gillibrand.senate.gov).



*Photo: Plimoth Plantation*

*A banker by profession, Joe Lillis has been a lifetime member of Society of Mayflower Descendants (Standish) since 2002 and is an avid coin collector. Mr. Lillis serves on the Society's national 2020 committee.*

## The Pilgrims is Available for Purchase

Rick Burns's documentary, *The Pilgrims*, which aired last November, is available for purchase at *amazon.com*. The two hour program chronicles the history, origins, and critical first decade of the first permanent English colony in New England.

The program details the English and continental origins of the Pilgrims, their difficult first winter in Plymouth, the alliance Massasoit, and the colony's eventual stabilization.

The narration includes passages from Williams Bradford's journal. (Bradford became Plymouth's governor.) Bradford's journal disappeared during the Revolution, then was rediscovered in the mid-nineteenth century.

### Key to Pictures Opposite

**Top Row, left to right:** Jane Fulton, Sandra Sheridan; Leigh & Dan Harmon, Susan & Jim Grayshaw; Rachel & Armondo Luna, Parke Ballantine.

**Middle row:** Charles (new member) & Mary Malone; Mary Meade, Carol Young (new member), Dorinda Bloss; Zsuzsa von Gleichen, Sarah Morse, Baron Philip von Gleichen.

**Bottom row:** Catherine & Bob Brawer; Gov. Thomas Pike, Lea Filson, Sarah Morse; Bill & Carol Weld.

Below: Lea Filson at the podium.

### Attention

### Howland Cousins

The March 2016 issue of *The Howland Quarterly* contains what is probably *the* definitive description of what is provable genealogically for the parents and siblings of John Howland. The new study, commissioned by the Pilgrim John Howland Society, was undertaken by Caleb H. Johnson and British researcher Simon Neal. All sources are cited. This is an important addition to the Howland literature.



# Cousins Dinner 2016

The dining room was full for the 2016 Cousins' Dinner, at which members and their guests sit at tables reserved for descendants of various Mayflower passengers. It's a family reunion of a kind. This year, Lea Sinclair Filson, Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants was the featured speaker. Lea is a member of the Louisiana Mayflower Society.



# New Leadership at the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

D. Joshua Taylor, among the best known names in genealogy and family history in the country, has been appointed president of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B). He relocated to New York from Los Angeles and began his service on February 1. A search committee comprised of members of the board of trustees, chaired by Steve Madsen, recruited Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Taylor was the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the New York Society of Mayflower Descendants on April 20.



In addition to his duties at the NYG&B, Josh Taylor also serves as the president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), a volunteer position. He is a gifted speaker and lectures widely, and he has played a lead role in the PBS television series, *Genealogy Road Show*. He has unusual insight into the future of the genealogical field, which is now driven by 1) rapid advancements in technology and online research and 2) by advances in DNA science. This annual meeting, attracting a record breaking number of members, was an excellent opportunity to hear about the exciting ways genealogical research is breaking new ground and to meet one of the brightest and most engaging speakers in the field.

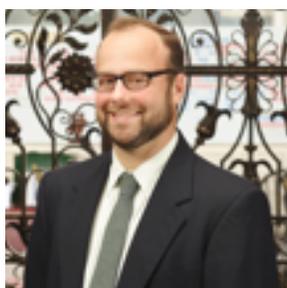
Jeanne Sloane has been succeeded by Iain Bruce as the new chairman of the board of the NYG&B. Mr. Bruce, who recently retired after a highly successful career on Wall Street, is an enthusiastic genealogist in his spare time. He and his family live in Westport, CT.

## News of Mayflower Periodicals

### Mayflower Descendant

Last August, the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) announced that, as the result of an agreement with the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants (MSMD), the NEHGS will assume a ten-year stewardship of the *Mayflower Descendant*. The first issue under the NEHGS stewardship is the Winter, 2016 issue.

First published in 1899 by George Ernest Bowman, under the auspices of the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, the journal is a respected scholarly journals in the field of genealogy. NEHGS plans to continue twice-a-year publication, winter and summer, available by subscription.



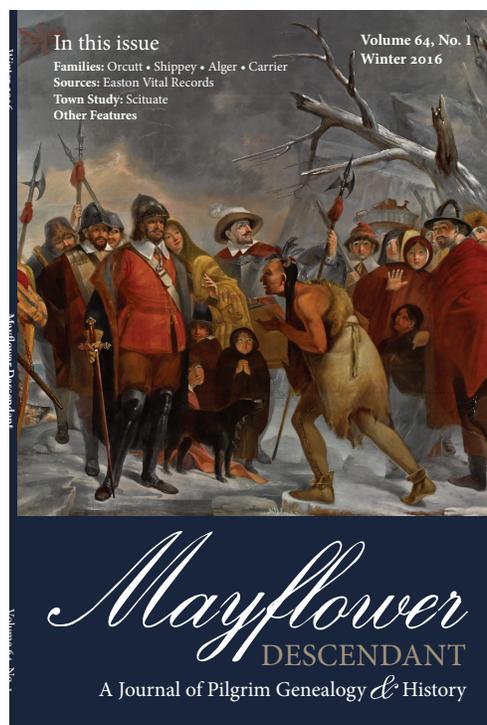
Christopher C. Child, Senior Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press at the NEHGS was named editor, succeeding Caleb H. Johnson who edited the journal until 2014. There were no issues in 2015. Child is an award-winning genealogist and author of important published studies of American family history. Details are at [americanancestors.org/mayflower-descendant](http://americanancestors.org/mayflower-descendant).

Subscriptions are \$40 from the NEHGS.

### Mayflower Compact

The MSMD continues to publish its newsletter, *The Compact*, three times per year.

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## Mayflower Quarterly

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) publishes *The Mayflower Quarterly*, which will shortly become a 16-page, full-color quarterly magazine. GSMD members will receive this as a benefit of membership.

## Mayflower Journal

In May 2016, the GSMD will introduce a new publication called *The Mayflower Journal*, which will contain articles about Pilgrim history, genealogy, and related subjects. Individuals may subscribe to this publication.



*Photo of Mayflower II courtesy of Plimoth Plantation*

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**Join the Fun!** If you are one of the approximately thirty million Americans who are descendants of Mayflower passengers, getting on board is not onerous.

You'll find research you think you'll have to do from scratch *has already been done by others*. Most likely, if you can prove descent from your grandparents, you're nearly there. Visit us online for the particulars, and then give our executive director a call.

**Are you already a member?** Then why not give a membership to a child or grandchild, niece or nephew? A membership improves with age, grows more meaningful as it is shared with others, and lasts forever.



## New York Mayflower

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