



*Society of Mayflower Descendants
in the state of
Ohio*

Buckeye Mayflower

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Ohio

www.ohiomayflower.org

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Acting DDG Article on September 2019 General Board of Assistants meeting.

Elizabeth Finley-Belgrad, MD

This was my 1st attendance at such a meeting

We 1st addressed issues with Life Membership. Here in Ohio we are a bit ahead of some states as we have recently reviewed and revamped the process. We initially began by looking at the data. Of 30,003 members nationally 10,308 or 34.36% are life members. Here in Ohio of 956 total members 116 or 17.6% are life members. The highest percentages of life members are in Massachusetts at 70% and Hawaii. Not all states offer life memberships.

In 2017 GSMD, family search .com and NEHGS (New England Historical and Genealogical Society) made an agreement for digitization of all application records ,to index and make them electronically available by 2020.This process is almost completed.

Steven Valentine from FamilySearch.com was a luncheon speaker and he described their company; 125 year old company has been a pioneer in microfilm and digitalization. They have developed a Discovery Center in Salt Lake City that people can visit and have a true" personalized experience." This is a free service and once you make a family search account you will get periodic emails to draw you into a specific personalized, bite size discovery experiences

This was a huge process, finding an appropriate work space to have their special cameras photograph and digitize 116,193 files, to index 1,739,816 images, 116,839 index cards and about 200,000 Silver book records.

Silver book generations 1-5-are considered the "Gold Standard" of genealogical research. Generation 6 needs to be connected in , next generations from the application file will connect with silver book data, that will be lineage-linked, sourced and accurate.

Each Mayflower family will be represented as a tree. There are 23 Trees - want to converge the data without replication "just the Truth"

ROOTSTECH is an annual Salt Lake City "show" for all things Genealogy." Our current Governor General George Garmany Jr MD has been there twice on his own dime and has been duly impressed-this is a great "show." They plan to have a Celebration and Promotion of the Mayflower 400th anniversary at ROOTSTECH 2020-We are all invited and encouraged to attend.

The future plan is to have the team return every 5 years to digitize the new application information.

Don McClair from NEHGS went on to explain how the information could be accessed.

Combined , verified trees will be available for viewing using American Ancestry trees.

GSMD members will have access to the info on American Ancestry without the need to join American Ancestry(free). All indexed silver book and application information with source data will be available to GSMD members. There has been an agreement that no information within the most recent 100 years on people will be included for privacy reasons.

Lisa Pennington Esq member at large from the Texas society reported about a newly created lecture series as part of a push to get the Mayflower House to support itself. There will be 6 genealogy lectures each year. They will be recorded and available on the *members only* portion of the website. They have all included press releases and been so far, well received. This year, Wampanoag, Irish, French , DNA, Scottish lectures have occurred or are planned. Unfortunately they cannot as yet be gotten onto the website. Another example of why we need to upgrade the website.

There has been discussion of other things like dinners, high tea in the garden as other initiatives to make the Mayflower profitable.

The meeting house project is progressing , some tours have been arranged for members and their families even in the midst of renovation (there is a \$5 charge for this and you also get a magnet). It is estimated to be 2-3 years before there can be any programs held at the Meeting House.

Elizabeth Gaudreau CPA the current treasurer General reported on the finances and budget. Our per capita fee for each member to the GSMD was a focus. Historical changes are as follows : 1999-\$8.00, 9ys later, 2008-\$11,00, 6yrs later 2014 \$15.00 where we are now. She showed us a long list of other lineage societies , all with bigger per capitas, between \$19-\$50. The concern is that with such a low per capita and the growing needs of our society has resulted in our fundraising -which should be used for advances or projects is being used to simply “keep the lights on”.

Laura Tindal Historian from Pennsylvania reported that they have a new website that directly links to social media-she would be happy to talk with anyone to help guide them . The vender they used was starchapter.com has been up since 4/2019 www.sail1620.org .

Jim Bales DGG from Maryland reported they have a U-tube channel and have produced a “children’s challenge” online. They had been using a volunteer webmaster for a long time, but then have recently chose to hire a professional and have found it a very good value and worthwhile expenditure.

Lori Link reported on the GSMD Scholarship. 1st through 4th places were awarded with \$6000 1ST place \$4000, 2ND \$3000, 3rd and \$2000 4th place. This is the 9th consecutive year of awarding the scholarship, using objective principles. Felt to be reliably unbiased. Final scores of up to 200 points in 8 categories, are compiled using multiple stages. The essay is scored, 2applications forms, character reference, academic reference, ACT/SAT scores as well as other letters are used.

Several other states also shared scholarship information. North Carolina offers a \$4000 scholarship for a graduate student in history-they work with 4 colleges and let the schools decide the recipient. New Jersey gives away 3-\$1620 scholarships with the money sent directly to the school where the winner matriculates. They sometimes get over 50 applications. South Carolina awards 4 scholarships , one for college, High School, Middle School and Elementary School

Martha Music who had been identified as having an extremely efficient method of generating her annual report gave us instructions about how to use Quickbooks to manage membership information. She would be happy to advise anyone and her email: marthamusic22@gmail.com

Techsoup.org will sell any non-profit organization Quickbooks for \$50, as many copies as needed as well as Microsoft office for a “nominal fee”.

There has been quite a bit of progress in the development of the Mayflower Guard-we were treated to a fully costumed posting of the colors. We are hoping to ultimately have 23 members. In 1621 there were only 23 men alive to serve in the guard.

There is also lots of information circulating about *appropriate Pilgrim apparel*. A committee page has been launched on the website under the *members’ only* tab. Instructions on where to order clothes, get patterns. Do not delay as there

are several 2020 activities in Plymouth that require period clothing to participate. There is an emphasis on accurately depicting their costumes, not the standard black with buckles, neither of which is actually accurate for the actual pilgrims.

“Voyage of Hope” is the name of the Rose Parade 2020 float whose work is already in progress. There will be 17 members with appropriate pilgrim apparel on the Float in California for the Rose parade.

The California Society is also selling Mayflower 2020 commemorative Wine that will be sold for those interested at our Compact Day dinner-the price per bottle is \$35. Proceeds will support the Mayflower Float in the Rose Bowl Parade to be seen by a notable proportion of the population on Wed January 1, 2020. It has been mostly self-funded by the GSMD, \$20,200 in member matching funds has just been donated. There is still a need for \$100,000 .There was a suggestion that the “Voyage of Hope “ float will be near the front, maybe even the 1st float.

D. Clements (SD member) was commissioned to do a life-size statue of William Bradford-that is to be placed in the Mayflower House garden in time for the 2020 celebration. The 1620 club visited his studio and was able to see the actual almost completed statue. Others were able to view a 14” miniature that was on display at the country club dinner on Saturday. Copies of the 14” stature will be available for sale once the contract is completed.

In addition plans are in the works to also have an eternal Flame in the garden near the statue

The Mayflower Quarterly began in 1935 as 4 pages. In 2016 it had grown to 14 pages. It is now 8 ½ x 11 and has 38 pages, heavier stock and for the 1st time, more historical and genealogical articles. The printer retired in 6/2019. First copy from our new printer will be fall 2020, and the winter issue will have detailed 2020 plans.

The Secretary General reported that there were 82 GBOA members present, 50 state societies represented and 217 attendees-the largest ever. She emphasized the need to go where the kids are, Facebook , twitter, U-tube, again emphasizing the need to modernize the website

The target ultimately shared with us is to increase the per capita by \$20/yr-to a total per capita of \$35. An increase of \$20 would only be 38 cents per day.

Treasurer General Elizabeth W. Gaudreau CPA reported, we have a \$570,656 surplus (\$299,728 last year). These are re-invested into long term investments. This year there has been a \$68,924 operating deficit, total balance of the budget is a \$5341 deficit, 12.4 million assets, 1.4 million cash and investments

Again it was reiterated that we need more nimble financial decision making -ability to make changes only every 3 years at Congress has left us in a financially difficult position.

Historian General Marjorie K. Hurtuk reported-with the upcoming 400th anniversary there has been a large increase in the volume of applications, staffing issues have been a real challenge. There is a 15wk time right now from application receipt to completion of verification. With the recent addition of an assistant genealogist, our Historian General predicts will decrease that lag time to 11-12 weeks by next year.

The volume increase in a mixed bag , as we want more members, but our current process of only being able to make major by law changes (and allow changes to finances) every 3 years has left the society with a significant discrepancy with what it costs and what we charge for an application. Current charge is \$75, actual cost ends up being \$125 (for verification time , support staff time and overhead) to verify one application. That is a \$50 difference, for each new application. With the increase in applications , 23.4% over prediction and likely total over the whole year based on current numbers so far will be 3580 new applications for the year, at a total cost short fall of for the year \$179,000(just for the cost over what we charge for applications).

The idea is that applicants should pay the cost, but until the fee can be changed the cost needs to be covered by current members.

In summary:

Our increase in applications and application fee of \$75, has led to an estimated \$179,000 shortfall this year.

We have increased for this year our use of endowment funds from 4% to 5% has given us \$97,000 we have several other needed things that we have gone without:

- reduced genealogy staff
- have not been able to move forward with technology
- have not been able to modernize our current technology
- have no director of communications
- have no development manager or grant writer
- we have no facilities manager to manage the care and maintenance of the Mayflower and Meeting Houses
- website needs updating
- telephone system needs updating, apparently very hard to reach anyone
- reduction in travel budget right at the time we need to publicize 2020
- need proper display of the gifts of Art donated for 2020
- no proper cushion financially in case of a rainy day

Jane Duxbery Schleinzer, member at large reported that there is work on a video program about the history of our ancestors, GSMD, and the Meeting house that can be used with students, taken to libraries and historical societies, and is reported will be on the website by the beginning of October 2019.

Elder General Tom Pike pointed out that Western Theological debate has been between Law and Grace. From the perspective of grace he emphasized respecting the commitment to the contribution of each member of the society

Surgeon General Naomi S. Mann, MD, that she developed a set of DNA guidelines, DNA education, and presentation packet. This will be in PowerPoint format and should be done by October 2019.

The Mayflower DNA project: 18 male passengers known to have male descendants, 67 site matches with the same surname. This direct lineage data is important in circumstances when documents have been lost. Can use Family Tree DNA, Ancestry .com, or 23and Me. It is felt that this is the future of genealogy and that as a leader in the field GSMD must move ahead.

She also announced plans for a triannual cotillion to be held in New Orleans in November 2020, to which we are all invited

Susan Beckwith, the GSMD executive Director ,emphasized the need for modernization of our technology.

Membership increased 677 members 2017-2018

Also in the midst of implementing a routine National Death Registry Search, as the Social Security death index has not allowed public access since 2014.

A new membership brochure has been developed.

There has been a \$40,250 increase in sales this year, though it was noted that website use for shopping is often troublesome and needs to be modernized.

2018-2019 had the publication of 3 new silver books. Five books have been published in 2019

A new book by James Baker-a series of essays. It has been referred to by a reliable source as: "THE book for pilgrim history"

The 1st real estate purchased by the GSMD was the "Corn Hill" property. In 1918 the middle of WWI, pilgrim bones were discovered, likely those who died the 1st winter. GSMD acquired it and placed the sarcophagus there, a road was also re-routed to preserve the area. 50x50 square feet in Turo, MA. Plans to landscape it have been complicated, needing a re-survey around some deed issues, and hopefully will be the product ultimately of an Eagle Scout project.

Fundraising has been considered successful: We have an annual appeal- \$26,184 more than last year, 22,5% increase

Meeting House:

Had a capital campaign that allowed us to acquire the Meeting house. \$581,864 -from members and societies. We took possession of the Meeting House deed February 2019, and the restoration team is already working. The estimate for

Bell restoration is \$165,000 and we are looking for donors. The town of Plymouth donated 2.8 million for the restoration, 30,000 to restore the bell, that is on permanent loan to the Meeting House. There is a plan to use the discarded slate from the meeting house roof for some useful purpose(i.e. maybe make ornaments of some sort for sale)-so communicate any ideas you might have or interest in being involved with that process.

Diane and Tom Stevenson had a poster commissioned that will be sold and the profit will all go to Mary Chilton Winslow scholarship.

2 paintings have been done and donated along with the reproduction rights and will be reproduced for sale - "Welcome Pilgrims" with pilgrims and an Indian, and "The attack in Leiden". In addition a drawing has been done and reproductions will be available of the "Dogs of the Mayflower".

The US mint will be producing a commemorative 400th anniversary coin-they ultimately did not approve our suggestions and we will therefore make no money off it.

Lea S. Filson former Governor General reported on her monitoring of the new ships bell that was created. Several pieces of memorabilia to represent the GSMD membership were actually placed in the molten metal used for the bell and are now part of it. There is a replica small 8-10 inch bell mounted in a piece of the Mayflower II available for sale-\$1000/each.

During our meeting 9-7-19 the restored ship "Mayflower II" was launched from Mystic Harbor where she was made.

Ms. Filson also wrote a response to "Readers Digest" to an article that incorrectly suggested that the 1st thanksgiving was really all about the genocide of Indians bought for the slave trade. She provided more accurate data and interpretation-have not seen any response to this in "Readers Digest"

Certificates of commendation and Appreciation for service to the GSMD were awarded to a number of people including our own Don Nichols who has been a real standard for our state society, along with a pin. Details on his service to SMDOH will be published in the December 2019 Buckeye Mayflower.

Insignia sales have been a real boon this year, projected to be \$3600 they were actually \$7000 over budget.

Junior membership committee published a new Junior handbook condensing 250 pages down to 18. A thumb drive has been developed for jr membership chairs. It includes activities and ideas to support junior members and help make ancestry more meaningful for them. Lea Filson gave one to us for our state society and Dr. Don has one for each of our colonies.

2020 Specific plans are on the website, under *members only*. Many places to stay are filling up, but more are being added. More info will be in fall and winter MQ's. Plans for a 2020 commemorative issues of MQ planned for 2021.

There are a number of tours planned; fantastic experiences planned for both Provincetown on Cape Cod where the pilgrims first landed, including a reenactment of signing the Mayflower Compact. A procession in costume to the State House in Boston, tours and activities in Plymouth estimate of 2000 attendees so sign up EARLY.

Provincetown Museum Director presented more information about the Provincetown celebration .The Pilgrim Monument in Provincetown was built 1907-1910-tallest all granite structure in the USA. There will be lots of activities , June -August they will have Mayflower Compact Reenactments and Historical Talks. September 7-14 2020 in Provincetown will be "GSMD Week." There will be Mayflower Compact reenactments aboard The Mayflower in Provincetown Harbor

September 12 Evening Gala-5:30pm-tickets for the public \$350 each, for GSMD members \$250 each

September 13 luncheon PM

September 14 5:30am The Mayflower departure for Plymouth, MA

More info at www.provincetown400.org

In 2021 the annual meeting will be in Plymouth to commemorate the 1st Thanksgiving. 2022 will be in Minneapolis (probably) Minnesota, 2023-back to Plymouth, 2024-will be in Ashville North Carolina to celebrate that Colonies 100th anniversary