



Columbus Colony

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the state of Ohio

Organized 01 October 1929
Columbus Colony Officers
April 2020 – April 2023

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February 2023

A Love Triangle in Plymouth Colony?

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was a revered poet and writer who lived and worked in nineteenth century New England. He was known for sentimental and emotive narrative poems such as “Paul Revere’s Ride,” “The Song of Hiawatha,” “Evangeline,” and “The Village Blacksmith.” Born to Stephen and Zilpah Wadsworth Longfellow on 27th February 1807, he was a descendent of Mayflower passengers Richard Warren, William Brewster, and John and Priscilla Alden on his maternal side. This lineage and an oral tradition passed through the generations of his family provided the inspiring spark for Longfellow’s poem, “The Courtship of Miles Standish.”

In this epic poem, Longfellow narrates the love of two men, Miles Standish and John Alden, for teenager Priscilla Mullins. Standish was in his mid-thirties when his wife Rose died aboard the *Mayflower* during that first horrific winter. A brief time later Miles approached his friend John to propose to Priscilla on Miles’ behalf. John, who was about twenty-two years old, was crestfallen by this request because he had an eye for young Priscilla himself. But true to the friendship he held for Standish, he duly met with Priscilla and proposed on behalf of Standish. Fortunately for the shy John, Priscilla responded with the question “Why don’t you speak for yourself, John?” Love was in the air and a wedding followed soon after.

Longfellow genuinely believed in the veracity of this family story, but historians have not been able to find corroborating evidence for it. However, it is known that Standish married a woman named Barbara in 1623. The Alden and Standish families moved from Plymouth to Duxbury, which was the second town established in Plymouth Colony. The two families intermarried and remained close for several generations. When Standish died in 1656, his widow asked Alden to take the inventory for the settlement of the estate.

Priscilla’s question for John has been quoted down the centuries and has become part of our rich language heritage in America. My mother often quoted Priscilla when I was a young girl, long before either of us knew we were among Priscilla and John’s descendants.

*Cheryl Bash
Columbus Colony Elder*

Columbus Colony Spring meeting

Date: Saturday, April 1, 2023 This has been updated due to a scheduling issue.
**** A Reservation form will be arriving in your inbox Mid-February**

Where: Clintonville Women's Club, 3951 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43214

Time: 11:30 Social... 12:00 Dinner – followed by meeting and Necrology Service for our members who have died since April 2022.

We will be electing officers for the April 2023-April 2026 administration. Ballots will be emailed March 6, 2023 for you to return or bring to the meeting. Following election, the new officers will be installed. There will be time for socialization and a “meet your new officers”.

Jan will have her “sales table” and Hilda will be selling the Ohio Society Cookbooks.

We reserve the right to cancel this meeting if restrictions placed on us by the governor are in place and/or if the colony board decides to cancel in the best health interests of our members.

February Observances in the USA and the United Kingdom

There are several awareness months celebrated in February — though the five that often get the most attention include Black History Month, Humpback Whale Awareness Month, National Cancer Prevention Month, American Heart Month, and Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month.

February 2 – USA: National Ground Hog Day

February 5 – United Kingdom: British Yorkshire Pudding Day (in the USA we call it Pop Overs)
National Yorkshire Pudding Day has been celebrated on the first Sunday in February in Britain since 2007. Yorkshire Puddings are an essential part of a traditional British roast dinner, usually served on a Sunday. Originally, the Yorkshire pudding was served as a cheap first course with thick gravy to fill up the diners so they wouldn't need so much food in the next course. In a 2012 poll conducted by T-Mobile UK, the Yorkshire pudding was ranked tenth in a list of things people love about Britain.

February 6 – United Kingdom: Ice Cream for Breakfast Day

February 6, 1952 – The United Kingdom's Queen Elizabeth's reign began until her death September 8, 2022.

February 12 – Lincoln's Birthday 16th President (1809-1865)



February 14 – Valentine's Day: In the United States, about 190 million Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, not including the hundreds of millions of cards school children exchange.

Valentine's Day is a major source of economic activity, with total expenditures in 2017 topping \$18.2 billion in 2017, or over \$136 per person. This is an increase from \$108 per person in 2010. In 2019, a survey by the National Retail Federation found that over the previous decade, the percentage of

people who celebrate Valentine's Day had declined steadily. From their survey results, they found three primary reasons: over-commercialization of the holiday, not having a significant other, and not being interested in celebrating it.

February 16 –Fat Thursday is a Christian tradition in some countries marking the last Thursday before Lent and is **associated with the celebration of Carnival**. Because Lent is a time of fasting, the days leading up to Ash Wednesday provide the last opportunity for feasting (including simply eating forbidden items) until Easter. Traditionally it is a day dedicated to eating, when people meet in their homes or cafés with their friends and relatives and eat large quantities of sweets, cakes and other meals usually not eaten during Lent. Among the most popular all-national dishes served on that day are *paczki* in Poland or Berliner, fist-sized donuts filled with rose hip jam, and angel wings (*faworki*), puff pastry fingers served with powdered sugar.

February 18 – United Kingdom: drink Wine Day

February 20 – President's Day and Washington's Birthday

February 21 – Mardi Gras (French for Fat Tuesday) Carnival in New Orleans. Mardi Gras changes dates each year because it is connected to Easter, which also changes dates each year. Mardi Gras always falls exactly 47 days before Easter. This name comes from the tradition of using up the eggs, milk, and fat in ones pantry because they were forbidden during the 40-day Lenten fast, which begins the next day (Ash Wednesday) and ends on Holy Thursday (three days before [Easter Sunday](#)). This year, Mardi Gras falls on Tuesday, February 21, 2023. However, the Carnival season is much longer than just one day. Each year, Carnival begins on January 6, or the Feast of the Epiphany in the Christian faith. The season ends on Mardi Gras, which is always the day before Ash Wednesday and the start of the Lenten season in the Christian faith. That means that this year, Carnival runs from January 6 to February 20.

February 22 – **Ash Wednesday** marks the start of **Lent** in the Western church and takes place 46 days before Easter. As the date of Easter is calculated on the cycles of the moon, the date of Ash Wednesday will vary from year to year. The earliest possible date for Ash Wednesday is 4 February and the latest day is March 10. Ash Wednesday is observed mainly by the Roman Catholic Church and also by some Protestant denominations such as Methodists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians and Lutherans. It takes places immediately after the excesses of the two days of **Carnival** that take place in Northern Europe and parts of Latin America and the Caribbean.

February 29, 2024 will be our next Leap Year

To be a leap year, the year number must be divisible by four – except for end-of-century years, which must be divisible by 400. Our planet takes approximately 365.25 days to orbit the sun once. It's that **.25** that creates the need for a leap year every four years. During non-leap years, aka common years – like 2023 – the calendar doesn't take into account the extra quarter of a day required by Earth to complete a single orbit.

The Ohio Society Scholarship information has been available

<https://ohiomayflower.org/scholarship/>

Application, Essay, and Letters of Recommendation must be Postmarked by February 11, 2023. Any questions, please contact Mandy Brooks, Scholarship Chair: mandy.brooks@gmail.com.

Need a gift for yourself, a relative, or friend?

Ohio Mayflower Society Cookbooks for sale. The cost is \$20.00 if pickup or \$25.00 if mailed. If you need multiple cookbooks mailed to the same address, please notify me: hildappas@gmail.com for a S/H cost.



Silver Books Donation

As mentioned in our November 2022 Newsletter, Bexley Library is listed as one of our Ohio Society's recipient of Silver Books to keep their collection current. Bexley Library was founded in 1924 in Bexley High School. With the increase in borrowers, a new building was constructed and ultimately opened in 1929. It is located at 2411 East Main St. Bexley, near Capital University. The Library has been a member of the Central Library Consortium since 2014. The first Silver Books donation to the Library was July 2017.

On January 9, Sharon Hendershot, 1997-2020 Columbus Colony Lt. Governor; and Hilda Pappas, current Columbus Colony Lt. Governor, met with David and Heidi, who accepted the 5 Silver books for the local History Room. They received: John Adams (16-6), Thomas Rogers (19-2), William Brewster (24-2 & 24-3), and Edward Winslow (25).



Bexley Library History Room