



*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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A Message from our Governor



March in Ohio is always an adventure! 20 Degrees on Sunday and almost 70 today, high winds tomorrow. I wonder what our ancestors thought about all the changes they experienced. Not only weather, but environment and how they lived their lives. The SMDOH is also going through changes, not quite as drastic, but still a challenge to implement and accomplish successfully. The strategic Plan is moving forward in some areas:

- The Historian Team is doing a good job supporting the colonies and moving applications through the new all-electronic system the General Society recently initiated. Our Historian has worked closely with GSMD in this project.
- SMDOH continues to need a Deputy Treasurer. The treasurer role is one that can be labor intensive during dues collection period; if those tasks are shared everyone wins. **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS ROLE PLEASE CONTACT ME THRU THE WEBSITE.** It does not take someone with a history in finance just someone who has computer skills and a calculator!
- The Silver Books Donations to Public Libraries around the state are going well. It should be a relatively short drive for new and existing members to access them.
- Scholarships are a concern as we have not had many applications. As a group the BOA has been brainstorming how to improve this situation.
- Our new Scholarship chair has some great ideas to get kids to write for the newsletter. There is a nice \$ incentive involved. See page 7!
- The Executive Committee will be reviewing a proposal on how to improve our website and other technology for the future.
- The Western Reserve Colony is gearing up for a Genealogy Expo on Saturday March 29 from 1:00-3:30 PM at The Historic Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Cuyahoga Falls.
- SMDOH is planning to participate in an On-Line Silent Auction Fundraiser for the Pilgrim Meeting House in Plymouth – September 7, 2025-October 1, 2025. Stay tuned for more on this project.
- Cincinnati Colony is gearing up for the 2025 Annual Meeting on May 16-17, at the Great Wolf Lodge, in Mason. Watch your EMAILS for invitations and registration information. The Governor General will be the featured speaker. Bring the kids for a fun weekend !

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CELEBRATING MEMBERSHIP

Membership Milestones, August 2024-February 2025

Cincinnati Colony

Heather Willis – 30 yrs
David Turner – 20 yrs
Douglas Woodworth – 15 yrs
Carol Cole-10 yrs
Karen Wiggins-10 yrs
Marcia Holstrom-10 yrs
Reid Gaede-10 yrs
Stephanie Smith-10 yrs

Cleveland Colony

Beth Voltz – 55 yrs
Lisa Simek – 45 yrs
Andrew Wallace – 40 yrs
Richard Schmidt – 40 yrs
Robert Schmidt – 40 yrs
Candace Puma – 35 yrs
Christine Lieb – 35 yrs
Mary Chase – 25 yrs
Robert Provost – 20 yrs
Kathleen Leisure – 20 yrs
Linda Kramer – 15 yrs
Edward Dean-10 yrs
Jane Ellen Case-10 yrs
Joseph Belgrad-10 yrs
LuAnne Speck-10 yrs
Natalie Rowthorn-10 yrs

Columbus Colony

Cynthia Swilley – 50 yrs
Constance Roberts - 30 yrs
Cynthia Free – 25 yrs
Laurie Chase – 25 yrs
Michele Tavis – 25 yrs
Frederick Novak – 20 yrs
Rebekah Malone – 20 yrs



Kristen Hallows – 15 yrs
Teresa Boice – 15 yrs
Allison Murphy-10 yrs
Benjamin Roberts-10 yrs
Brian Adams-10 yrs
Carolyn White-10 yrs
Cheryl Bash-10 yrs
Florence Clendenen-10 yrs
Joseph Murphy-10 yrs
Joseph Poole-10 yrs
Kaitlyn Murphy-10 yrs
Michael Bellanca-10 yrs
Paula Murphy-10 yrs
Sara Roberson-10 yrs
Sheryl Forte-10 yrs

Toledo Colony

Cleora Chapin – 40 yrs
Todd Fisher -20 yrs
Joan Barrett-10 yrs
Michael Brewster-10 yrs

Western Reserve Colony

Audrey Gomez – 70 yrs
Martha Bishop – 70 yrs
Shirley Cordingly 70 yrs
Patricia Stebbins - 50 yrs
Diane Diehl – 30 yrs
Mark Shelborn – 35 yrs
Lynne Tracy - 25 yrs
Carol Tracy – 25 yrs
Heather Griffith-10 yrs
Luke Zaro-10 yrs
Ricky Rule-10 yrs
Timothy Rodgers-10 yrs

Congratulations

Historian's Corner

Your Deputy Historian, Terri Brown has been doing an amazing job building a team of volunteers to help our applicants become members. We have a Historian in each Colony and a team of volunteers to help. The Historians are:

- Cincinnati - Andy Cook
- Cleveland - Carolyn Cheverine
- Columbus - Doris Rhea Coy
- Toledo - Ed Trafford
- WR - David Burnham

We continue to recruit assistants in each Colony. We are looking for members who enjoy genealogy research and the willingness to help fellow descendants. There is no set time commitment - it can be as much or as little as desired. Help can be offered in person, on the phone, by email or whatever works. For in person meetings, we generally recommend that the first meeting be at a public place like a local library. A library meeting is also helpful at showing the applicant local resources and meeting any librarian who specializes in genealogy .

Terri has assembled an extensive collection of resources for the team, and once each volunteer signs the GSMD non-disclosure agreement, we get you access to some wonderful online resources that GSMD has never made available to us until this year.

Some applicants have no clue how to do genealogy research and need the basics, some need help knowing where to look for the documents they need, some need help getting their application and supporting documents properly prepared. Some just need encouragement and support. You may run into applicants who expect us to do all the work for them. When you are asked, the answer is No. I always wind up doing some online research for most every applicant (can't help myself), but we are there to coach them, and hopefully teach them how to do the work.

If you think this is something you would enjoy, we would love to add you to the team. The goal is to have enough volunteers around the state that no applicant feels alone in the process. To volunteer, email me at ohmayflowerhistorian@gmail.com or Terri at OHDeputyHistorian@gmail.com.

There are also other ways you can help your Society including joining the indexing project. There is a great article in the Winter 2024 Mayflower Quarterly Magazine that explains the project. Thousands of initial and supplemental applications have already been indexed, but there are many thousands still to go. If you look in that MQM you will see that Ohio is one of the states with a long list of participating indexers. Cheers to Rebecca Appenzeller, Bob Coltrin, Donald Gillespie, Lori Hart, Ann Keim, David Papoi, Kenneth Porter, William Savage, Erin Welker, Heather Reichert, Susan Woodford, Winthrop Winchester and Phyllis Zibbel.

If you are interested in getting involved, email GSMDCertify@themayflowersociety.org to volunteer.

Do you have more pilgrim ancestors that you have not proven yet? If so, we would be happy to prepare supplemental applications for you. If you joined in the last few years, there is a section at the bottom of the first page of your approved application with notes on any other lines you could prove. If you are interested, send an email to either me or Terri and we can get you started.

Ann Fox Gulbransen, Historian, Western Reserve Colony

Surgeon's Corner

We are coming up on Spring. Change is always hard- even good change. We are seeing more light and all of our moods should be lifting a bit.

Remember words define our experience, focus on the positive , frame things in the way you want them to be!!

Routine is Key!!!

Remember our sleep begins with our wake up time – that should be the same as much as possible every day. Sleep is Key and well worth our putting some energy into.

A 3-4 step routine 9 hrs prior to wake up time a good choice. A warm bath or shower an excellent choice. After getting out, our body temp drops a few degrees – the exact thing needed for sleep to occur. If you take a bath, adding 1-2 C of Epsom salts an excellent idea.

Melatonin is frequently misunderstood. It is a signal for your bod to sleep – it does not put or keep you asleep. If you use it, small doses are best.

We have a natural reduction of melatonin as we age. For the older person, taking a regular dose can support overall aging. Herbatonin is a reliable brand and 0.3mg is a good dose.

Optimally when you get out of bed, drink 16 oz of water, do 3-5 min of stretching, go outside and look at the sun. Optimally take a 10-15 min walk.

Wishing you all Peace and Love

Elizabeth A Finley-Belgrad, MD

A new book by Cherry Bamberg is coming in 2025.

It transcribes some of the very difficult Reverend Stiles marriages and other vital events in Newport from the early 1700s. This was quite a little project. Stiles went on to be president of Yale University. He's known for other things, but he was a minister there and he left these records, which Cherry turned into a nice little book.

We recently got an order for one of the RIGS "(Rhode Island Genealogical Society)" books from the D.A.R. Library in Washington, D.C. The D.A.R. Library is an institutional member of RIGS. The new Gleanings coming out this spring will be on Jamestown. Cherry says it is one of the most exciting ones we've ever had."

Note: The Gleanings books are town meeting notes from various towns in Rhode Island, mostly during the 1700s.

Sandra Carlin St. Martin, Past Governor

William Bradford, Plymouth's Poet

William Bradford is known to those informed in pilgrim history as the second and longest serving governor of Plymouth Plantation and as the author of the history of their settlement. Did you know he also wrote a few poems?

After his death, these poems, as well as his handwritten history, *Of Plymouth Plantation*, were carefully passed down through the family until the history was deposited in the library of the Old South Church in Boston a century later.

My favorite poem is "Epitaphium Meum," which translated from the Latin to English means "My Epitaph" or "My Eulogy." It is a fairly long poem, so I will only reproduce the last several moving and faith-filled lines in this space. The entire poem can be found easily online.

"Faint not, poor soul, in God still trust,
Fear not the things thou suffer must;
For, whom he loves he doth chastise,
And then all tears wipes from their eyes.
Farewell, dear children, whom I love,
Your better father is above.
When I am gone, he can supply;
To him I leave you when I die.
Fear him in truth, walk in his ways,
And he will bless you all your days.
My days are spent, old age is come,
My strength it fails, my glass near run.
Now I will wait when work is done.
Until my happy change shall come,
When from my labors I shall rest
With Christ above for to be blest."

Cheryl Bash, Ohio Society Elder and Columbus Colony member

Book Review of *Bathsheba Spooner: A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy* by Andrew Noone

Andrew Noone has penned a fascinating account of the early capital murder case of Bathsheba Spooner (a descendant of John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley), whose final resting place is thought to be adjacent to his home in Green Hill Park in Worcester, Massachusetts.

In 1778, Bathsheba, a Tory sympathizer, enlisted the help of 2 British deserters and a wounded 17 year-old American soldier to kill her Patriot husband Joshua Spooner. She was the first woman executed in America.

Using primary source documents of the time period, Noone lays out the sequence of events. While the events themselves are of historical interest, it is the supplementary material woven into the narrative that provides a unique perspective. It is clear Noone has done extensive research and reading about early New England. Historical context is given to the places and regiments involved in the case. There is discussion of legal procedures in 18th century Colonial America. Writings of John Adams are introduced in this context. The 18th century autopsy and forensic analysis are discussed. Social customs, agricultural practices, and household work are all touched upon in context.

This is not a book one races through to discover the ending-the conspirators are convicted and hanged. It is easy to pick up and put down, learning something new about Colonial and Revolutionary New England on nearly every page. It is available in paperback from Amazon as well as for Kindle and Audible. Given the frequent insertion of supplemental historical material into the story line, it is probably better appreciated in written form rather than as an audiobook.

Heather Horton, Education Chair, Columbus Colony

New Scholarship Opportunity for Junior Members!

The Education Committee is pleased to announce a new competition for Ohio Mayflower Society Juniors in 5th - 12 grade. We are looking for short essays of approximately 250 words. The deadline is two weeks prior to the submission deadline for the next newsletter issue. The newsletter deadlines are the first of March, June, September and December so the essay deadlines are the 15th or the prior month,

Each junior may enter 1 submission per newsletter. The author of the best submission per newsletter will win a **\$100 award** and have his or her article published in the newsletter. We may publish more than one submission per issue but only one cash award will be given per newsletter. A junior may only win one award per year, but may submit other articles for publication. At this time, we are not dividing entries by age, but **if we get at least 3 entries for grades 5-8, we will give a separate award for that age group**. We want to encourage our Juniors to develop their writing skills, so please don't use AI (spellcheck is fine). We are looking for creativity and writing quality.

The submission should be about 250 words, double spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font. They should be submitted electronically.

The first topic (due May 15, 2025) will be "If a Mayflower passenger came to visit you for a day, what would you show them?"

Please send entries as an attachment in an email to SMDOHedu@hlhorton.org with a subject line:

Juniors Essay Competition

In your email, please include your Name, Age, Grade, School (or homeschooled), Contact email, and Contact phone number.

Good luck!

Heather Horton, Education Chair, Columbus Colony

The Flag of the *Mayflower*

At our Toledo Colony Compact Day luncheon, one of our members asked an excellent question: “What flag did the *Mayflower* have?” The flag that would have flown on the *Mayflower* was the King’s Colors, consisting of the Cross of Saint George representing England across and atop of the Cross of Saint Andrew of Scotland.

The King’s Colors consisting of the Cross of Saint George representing England across and atop of the Cross of Saint Andrew of Scotland:



The King's Colors

=



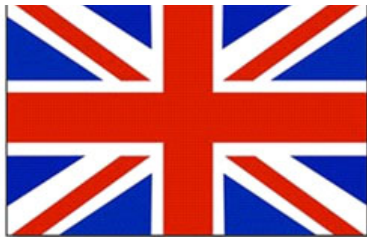
The Cross of Saint George

+



The Cross of Saint Andrew

For comparison, the current Union Jack flag of the United Kingdom combines the two emblems of the King’s Colors (the Saint George Cross for England and the Saint Andrew Cross for Scotland) with the Saint Patrick Cross for Ireland.



The Union Jack

=



The King's Colors

+



The Cross of Saint Patrick



The Mayflower II flying the King's Colors



Submitted by Edmund Trafford, Toledo Colony Lt. Governor

Junior Membership Corner



Colony Jr. Membership chairs are busy trying to update contact information. We welcome to our team: Larry Hoyt (*Cleveland Colony*) and Susan Jarzen (*Western Reserve Colony*). Monthly emails are sent to each colony Jr. Membership chair that can be forwarded to their respective colony Jr. Members. A list with the colony Jr. Member's contact information is also included in each email.

These are our current Jr. Membership Colony Chairs:

Cincinnati: Beth Anderson.

Cleveland: Larry Hoyt

Columbus: Matilda Davis-Northrup

Toledo: Andrea Traunero

Western Reserve: Susan Jarzen

We continue with our monthly Pilgrim ancestor bios sent to juniors an/or their sponsors: January: Peter Browne; February: James Chilton, Susannah Chilton, Mary Chilton; March: Francis Cooke, John Cooke; April: Edward Doty; May: Francis Eaton.

Please visit the Junior Member page
<https://ohiomayflower.org/junior-membership>

“Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future”

John F. Kennedy

Do you have Children, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, or Grandnieces/nephews from the ages of 0-18?

If you are a member in good standing of Ohio Mayflower and have children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, or grandnieces or grandnephews ages 0-18 you can be a sponsor for your family members and have them enrolled as Junior members of the Society!

Juniors are best described as the youngest descendants of the Mayflower Pilgrims. They learn to form legacies through family involvement, educational information, and the dedicated leadership of Juniors Chairs in our Member Societies. A study found that that young people benefit from learning about their history; knowing where they came from provides a perspective of their unique ancestral past and an insight into who they may become.

Former juniors between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five may apply for Ohio Mayflower Regular Membership with a discounted application fee.

The cost to sponsor a Jr. member is \$25.00 per child. Each new junior receives a certificate bearing their name, date of sponsorship and their ancestor's name, along with a welcome packet with Mayflower activities.

Hilda Pappas
GSMC Jr. Membership Committee Member
OH Society Junior Membership Coordinator 2023-2026

Andrea Traunero, Toledo Colony Junior Member Chair

Continued from page 1

On Friday morning May 16th, Lisa Pennington, GSMD Governor General will be hosted by Cleveland and Western Reserve Colony at the Western Reserve Historical Society. The Governor General will be signing the *Great Book*, published by the William Brewster Press over 400 years ago (see page 16).

What SMDOH needs from our members is more of you to participate in Colony and State leadership. It's a great way to see what happens in the background in your colonies and in the state. In more than in one group and association I have heard a comment like this "It's always the same people who are making the decisions". I think one of the reasons that happens is that other people are hesitant to step up to a role in a group because they think it will be too much work. What I have learned over my life is that if you push your boundaries a little bit you learn a lot. Many people have discovered skills they did not realize they had or could do. The SMDOH needs to bring in "New Blood" at all levels of the organization. Please don't be shy - step up and help at the colony level, and the state level. No one is going to let you fail, **EVERYONE BRINGS SOMETHING TO THE TABLE.** Many of our state leaders are getting old and older, we want to help younger members so that we can continue to be the best SMDOH has to offer.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Great Wolf Lodge.

Beth Anderson – Governor SMDOH

Juniors and their Sponsors involved at Western Reserve

I was so pleased at Western Reserve Colony's Compact Day this year. Several Juniors and their sponsors were a key part of the program; very impressive.

Chloe Pethel and her grandfather, Todd Reutzler read the Pilgrim Pledge and the Mayflower Compact for us. And we all know the Compact is very difficult to recite! Congrats to Chloe and her grandfather, descendants of William Brewster. Nicely done.

Nora, Eli, Dylan, and Mary McDaniel led us in the Pledge of Allegiance along with their father, Eric McDaniel. This is not the first time McDaniel juniors have been involved and I know it is won't be the last time. They are descended from John Alden, George Soule, William Mullins, John Howland and John Tilley. In a few years they will be joined by Colleen and Stella! Thank you for your enthusiastic participation!

Jill Parker, Past Governor, Western Reserve Colony

Book review

I grabbed a copy of *Guyasuta and the Fall of Indian America* by Brady J. Crytzer after hearing him speak about the Whiskey Rebellion at the SMDOH Annual Meeting in May. Brady does an excellent job of telling the history of the Ohio Country that is not taught in history class. He takes the reader through the history and political turmoil of the Ohio Country from 1753 through the Indian uprisings of 1793 and ends with the Treaty of Fort Greenville in 1795. I highly recommend this book to anyone with an interest in the history of Ohio, western Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Terri Brown, Deputy Historian, Western Reserve Colony

COLONY CHRONICLES

Cincinnati Colony

Cincinnati Colony has a new Historian, Andy Cook. Andy jumped right in and assisted during the Compact Day luncheon. Deputy Lt. Governor Laurence Winters has been hard at work assisting with the 2025 State Meeting as well as Compact Day.

We also have a new Junior Membership Coordinator. Beth Anderson has agreed to be fill that role.

The Cincinnati Colony 2024 Compact Day Buffet Luncheon was held on November 2nd at RSVP Event Center. 64 adults and 10 children enjoyed food, fellowship, and an enjoyable program. John Burke, Burke's Living History, told us the factual story of the first Thanksgiving between the Wampanoag Indians and the Pilgrims in 1621 in Plymouth Massachusetts. Feedback has been very positive for the event.



We welcomed and installed 11 new members into the colony: Zeb Acuff, Lois Cocanougher, Andy Cook, Kathryn Dierckes, Lee Emrick, Gerry Hrenko, Lisa Luecke, Joe Macke, Michael Poterek, and Georganne Woessner.

The Committee has been busy working on the annual State meeting. Invitations will be going out in the next few days.

Wanda Langdon, Lt. Governor, Cincinnati Colony

Cleveland Colony

2025 Meetings: In 2025, the colony will continue to hold four board of assistant's meetings via zoom and one annual in-person or zoom Spring business meeting.

2025 Spring Event: The 2025 Spring Meeting will be Sunday April 06, 2025 at 1:30pm at the Dunham Tavern 6709 Euclid Avenue Cleveland, Ohio. The business meeting will be held in the barn and the program is a self guided-tour in the tavern museum. The event parking is free and light refreshments plus coffee boxes and water will be provided. The invitation was sent to Cleveland colony members by February 14, 2025 via Constant Contact to members with email addresses and members without email addresses were mailed out via USPS. Additionally, the invitation was posted to the Ohio Mayflower website under CLE Colony tab event section. The invitation was sent to current preliminary and pending applications.

2025 "Great Book Signing": The 2025 Great Book Signing Friday May 16, 2025 will be held at the Western Reserve Historical Society 10825 East Blvd Cleveland, Ohio honoring Governor General Lisa Pennington. Ann Sindelar Library Reference Supervisor at the Cleveland History center will give the "Great Book Signing" presentation. The event is co-hosted by the Northeast Cleveland and Western Reserve Colonies. The state board and the two colony boards will receive an invitation to attend the event. The WRHS parking lot is a private vendor and the parking fee will be applicable for the event. Light refreshments plus coffee boxes and water will be provided. More details will follow.

2025 Summer Event: The 2025 Summer event is targeted for Saturday June 21, 2025 with a tour at the Cleveland University Circle's Cozad-Bates House Museum located at 11508 Mayfield Road, Cleveland, Ohio followed by lunch in Cleveland's Little Italy neighborhood . The historical house is known for the involvement in the underground railroad network. The tour is free and parking limited. More details will follow.

2025 Compact Day Dinner: The 405th Mayflower Compact Day and 95th Cleveland Colony Dinner buffet luncheon event held at the Lakewood Country Club located in Westlake, Ohio Saturday November 08, 2025. We will offer zoom availability with Leanne McGann as our zoom manager again. As always, the passenger family surname roll call will take place. We will recognize new members and the memorial service will be presented by our colony elder Dr. Don Nichols. We will recognize Veterans and thank them for their service and we will never forget. As always, we will open the invitation to other historical organizations. The invitations will be sent out electronically via Constant Contact to members with email addresses and members without email addresses will have invitations mailed out via USPS. The invitation will also be posted on the Ohio Mayflower website under CLE Colony tab event section. The invitation will be sent to current preliminary and pending applications. Door prizes will close the meeting!

Vicky Heineck, Lt. Governor Cleveland Colony, SMDOH

Columbus Colony

Our annual Spring Gathering will be held at the Heritage Golf Club in Hilliard on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

Kathryn Haueisen (Kathy), is an author, workshop leader, speaker, and an ELCA "(Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) pastor. As an author, she's published six books (My Writing) and numerous articles for print and online publications. Her presentation will be from her most recent book, "Mayflower Wives" Eighteen women voyaged with their husbands aboard the *Mayflower* in 1620. Only four were still alive a year later. She will be bringing books to autograph and sell.

Kathryn's website is <https://howwisethen.com/>

Kathy is also currently working on her own application for membership!

Hilda Pappas, Junior Membership Coordinator

Toledo Colony

Meetings: In 2024, the Colony held Board of Assistants meetings in person following our luncheon events. Regular meetings followed our Saturday, 13 April 2024 Spring Luncheon Gathering, and our Compact Day luncheon on Saturday, 16 November 2024. In 2025. In-person Toledo BOA meetings will follow our 29 March 2025 Spring Luncheon Gathering and 1 November Compact Day Luncheon, with additional meetings and group communications as required.

2025 Spring Luncheon: This event is scheduled for Saturday, 29 March 2025. Our speaker for the luncheon will be Ms. Jacqueline Konwinski, president of the Toledo Polish Genealogical Society. She will speak on the Polish presence in America during the Revolutionary War.

2025 Summer Event: This event will take place on Saturday, 28 June 2025, with lunch in Bryan, Ohio, at Seasons Coffee & Bistro on Bryan Square followed by a visit to the Williams County Public Library for a presentation on Ellis Island by the Local History and Genealogy Manager, Jared Schnee. The Library is the recipient of Silver Books donated periodically by SMDOH through the Toledo Colony.

2025 Compact Day: This event is scheduled for Saturday, 1 November 2025. Our speaker will be from the National Great Lakes Museum in Toledo and will present a talk on the War of 1812 on Lake Erie.

Community Events: Toledo Colony received a copy of the most recent Silver Books, *Silver Books Index*. It was presented to the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library by our Lt. Governor Edmund Trafford.

Newsletter: The “Toledo Colony Chronicle” Winter 2025 issue was released in December 2024. It carried a summary of highlights from the November Compact Day Gathering, and information about the Spring and Summer Toledo Colony events.

Annual Meeting 2027: Advance planning has begun for the SMDOH annual meeting which will be hosted in 2027 by Toledo Colony. We have selected our venue (Holiday Inn and Suites in Perrysburg, Ohio), Friday evening event (desserts following dinner at the hotel’s restaurant), Saturday morning presentation (possibly a talk about the history of Tecumseh’s career given by one of our previous speakers, local historian Frank Kuron), and a Saturday afternoon presentation on “Piracy on the Great Lakes.”

Edmund Trafford, Lt. Governor, Toledo Colony, SMDOH

Western Reserve Colony

March 29th- Western Reserve Genealogy Expo is moving ahead and has the potential to be a great success. With over 10 sister/brother organizations, the event will have plenty of options for those interested in history and genealogy. Attendance is still free for the public and the organizations. Public flyers are currently being disbursed to local libraries.

June 14- The Western Reserve Picnic is again scheduled for our June meeting in Kent, Ohio, with hopes of better weather to enjoy outdoor activities!

September 14th- Our September Meeting will be held at Spread Eagle Tavern & Inn in Hanoverton, Ohio. We will have the opportunity to learn more about the historic building, the history of the area, as well as the significance of the eastern Ohio corridor for helping escaped slaves with the underground railroad.

November 9th- Our Compact Day will again take place at the Canton Women's Club. Additional event information to follow.

Western Reserve will be publishing a limited release of the Mayflower Maize game, originally created by WR in 1992. There will be 25 copies produced, They will be available at the annual meeting at the Great Wolf Lodge in Mason in May.

Cindy Nichols, Lt. Governor, Western Reserve Colony

Congratulations to Cindy and Brian Nichols on the birth of their daughter Evelyn on January 21, 2025. Mom and baby are doing well!



SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE STATE OF OHIO (SMDOH)

Annual Members Meeting

When:

May 16-17, 2025

Where:

Great Wolf Lodge, 2501 Great Wolf Dr, Mason, OH 45040

Friday Evening:

Reception: 7:00-9:00 PM, outdoor covered patio, weather permitting. If weather does not allow: Room: Fallen Timbers B & C
Cash bar. Desserts/Snacks. Meet & Greet with GSMD Governor General Lisa Pennington. Music entertainment by the McDaniel Kids
Registration: 6:30-8:30 pm – Conference Center Lobby

Saturday AM:

8:00-10:30 AM – Registration - Conference Center Lobby

8:00-9:00 AM - Board of Assistants Meeting (Board Members Only) -
Room: Fallen Timbers B & C

9:15-10:15 AM: "The Odyssey of Isaac Allerton." Speaker: Governor General Lisa Pennington. Sequoia Ballroom 1, 2 & 3

10:15-Noon Business Meeting

Noon-1:00 PM Lunch:

Plated Lunch: Herb marinated chicken, rice pilaf, green beans, dessert,
Kids: Chicken Finger meal: Chicken Fingers, Smiley French fries,
applesauce,

Saturday PM:

1:15-2:00 PM. Keynote Speaker, GSMD Governor General Lisa Pennington.

"Lighting the Candle: Why We Must Tell the Pilgrim Story."

Rooms:

23 Family Suite Rooms on Friday Night and 8 Rooms on Saturday Night are available for \$149. GWL charges a daily fee of \$39.00 on all occupied rooms. Parking is free. Scan the QR code below to reserve your Room by Wednesday, April 16th. Or call: 800-913-9653.

Reference Block: 25050HMS

**All registrations for the event and meals
will be online via this QR code:**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 29, 2025 - Toledo Colony spring luncheon
 March 29, 2025 - WR Genealogy Expo, Cuyahoga Falls
 April 6, 2025 - Cleveland Colony spring event at the Dunham Tavern
 April 26, 2025 - Columbus Colony spring meeting, Heritage Golf Club in Hilliard
 May 16, 2025 - Great Book Signing, Western Reserve Historical Society
 May 16-17, 2025 - Annual gathering, Great Wolf Lodge, Mason, OH
 June 14, 2025 - WR Colony picnic. Kent, OH
 June 21, 2025 - Cleveland Colony summer event, Cozad-Bates House Museum
 June 28, 2025 - Toledo Colony summer event
 September 14, 2025 - WR fall meeting, Spread Eagle Tavern, Hanoverton
 November 1, 2025 - Toledo Colony Compact Day
 November 8, 2025 - Cleveland Colony Compact Day, Lakewood Country Club
 November 9, 2025 - WR Colony Compact Day, Canton Women's Club

REFLECTIONS ON "THE PILGRIM PLEDGE"

The Mayflower Society, at all levels (The General Society, the Member Societies and the local colonies) operate as **"Mutual Aid"** organizations. Let's face it, in Ohio we owe our great success to the fact that the Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Toledo and Western Reserve Colonies all work together bringing their unique skills and talents together for the mutual benefit of ALL OF US. When organizations operate in a mutual aid manner they do so voluntarily by respectfully acknowledging each others' strengths, resources and abilities to contribute for the benefit of the whole Society.

I like that we include reading The Pilgrim Pledge at our Colony and State gatherings. So I started thinking about who wrote the pledge, when was it written, was there a special occasion for its first reading, and so forth. I do not have all the answers (yet) but I did find evidence that The Pilgrim Pledge was written by Maurice Hudson Thatcher (1870-1973) who was a US Congressman from Kentucky, appears to have been a member of the DC Mayflower Society, and is mentioned at length in Turner Classic Movies website summary about the 1952 film, Spencer Tracy film *Plymouth Adventure*. In the TCM write-up Thatcher is identified as the Deputy Governor General of the National Society of Mayflower Descendants. [I encourage you to go to the website: <http://www.tcm.com/tcmdb/title/2152/Plymouth-Adventure/full-synopsis.html>]

The Pilgrim Pledge serves as a reminder that our membership in the Society does not end once we prove that our ancestors "stepped foot in Plymouth". It is a reminder that the mutual aid they practiced in 1620 is alive today in our organization. So here it is, our reminder that we each have strengths, resources and abilities that we can pledge to our Colony and Society:

The Pilgrim Pledge

In the name of God, Amen. I pledge myself to hold aloft the lamps of civil and religious liberty lighted by the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock, to recall and cherish the sacrifices and struggles made by them for the common good, to study their lives, deeds, faith, courage, and character, and to draw inspiration therefrom, to emulate their spirit to be loyal to the Flag and institutions of the country whose founding was so greatly aided by their work and wisdom, to do everything within my power to deserve and preserve the heritage, and at all times and in all ways to profit by their Pilgrim example.

Maurice Hudson Thatcher

Jill Parker, Past Governor, Western Reserve Colony

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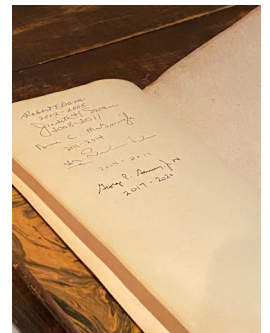
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What is the Great Book?

The book is a religious treatise published by William Brewster in Leiden in 1618. It was donated to the Western Reserve Historical Society by a collector who specified that all Mayflower Governor Generals could visit and sign the front pages of the book. The first signature is from 1929 and the most recent signature is Jane Hurt in 2024. Current Governor General Lisa Pennington will be here in May 2025 to sign the book. Look for more of the history of the book at ohiomayflower.org. There is a link to a detailed article at the bottom of the History tab on the menu.



Subscription Information

The Buckeye Mayflower newsletter is a benefit of your membership. This 16 page, electronic copy is available on www.ohiomayflower.org with a quarterly email notification that a new issue has been published at no charge. Past issues are also available to read.

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