



*Society of Mayflower Descendants
in the state of
Ohio*

Buckeye Mayflower

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Ohio

www.ohiomayflower.org

Volume 44 Issue 1

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Ann Gulbransen
Vicky Heineck
Heather Horton
Eric McDaniel
Hilda Pappas
Edmund Trafford
Laurence Winters

A Message from our Governor

On our way to Spring! Fewer cold days and rain, it's Ohio. I for one welcome the more temperate weather, and I am excited about the prospect of seeing more of you at our Spring Meeting in Columbus on May 15-16.



The Columbus Colony has been busy planning the event for you, Lea Filson, former Governor General of the General Society and head of the Mayflower Meeting House project will be the Keynote speaker. Invitations have been emailed about this event for registration and hotel information. A copy of the invitation is on page 5 of this newsletter. SMDOH is going to be emailing ballots for the election of officers for 2026-2029. Why emailing, simple the cost of postage at \$0.78 for first class mail is becoming way too costly for the Ohio Mayflower society. We have almost 1000 members and the cost of almost \$800 that we can use for other projects. Ballots will be mailed to those in the state who do not have an email address. The ballot instructions will give you information on how to return them, for this year it will be U.S. Mail, hopefully in the future we can determine a secure way to return them by email. Information on the candidates is on pages 8-9 and a copy of the ballot on page 10.

How about New England in September, it's a beautiful time of the year. Would you like the opportunity to visit famous cities where the Revolution was born, or where witches and writers lived, visiting Burial Hill, Plymouth county register of deeds, attending a DNA Workshop, a Colonial garden reception, or a visit to *Mayflower II*, and more? Well, you can do all that and more from September 11-16, 2026, during the Forty-fourth GSMD General Congress.

Recently you received an email indicating that SMDOH wants to be able to fill all our delegate seats. Please review this email and consider being a delegate. The information is online for registration for Congress, events, and hotel options. I was excited to see an event based in my hometown of Salem, I wish they had consulted me on where to get the best Fried Clams. Oh well it's an acquired taste. At the *Mayflower Congress* there will be the election of GSMD officers for the next three years, as well as by-laws changes.

Continued on page 11

BOARD OF ASSISTANTS IN THE STATE OF OHIO

Beth Anderson, Governor
mayflowergovernorohio@gmail.com

Betsie Gricar, Deputy Governor
betsieg77@gmail.com

Troy Bailey, Captain
tbailey@gwcmail.net

Cheryl Bash, Elder
cherylbash159@gmail.com

Mary Chase, Treasurer
treasurer@ohiomayflower.org

Margo Broehl, Counselor
mebroehl@gmail.com

Ann Gulbransen, Historian
historian@ohiomayflower.org

Theresa Brown, Deputy Historian
deputyhistorian@ohiomayflower.org

Vacant - Recording Secretary

Dr Elizabeth Finley-Belgrad, Surgeon
eafb95@gmail.com

Wanda Langdon, Corresponding Secretary
wanda@teamlandgon.com

Sandra St. Martin, Past Governor
carkin9th@yahoo.com

Dr. Donald Nichols, Past Governor
dons Sharon2025@gmail.com

Jill Parker, Assistant General
cfrtroutgal@gmail.com

COLONY LEADERSHIP

Cincinnati

Laurence Winters, Lt. Governor
ltgovernorcincinnati@ohiomayflower.org

Carol Byrd, BOA Representative
hkbyrd@earthlink.net

Cleveland

Vicky Heineck, Lt. Governor
heineckhistory@gmail.com

Troy Bailey, BOA Representative
tbailey@gwcmail.net

Columbus

Vacant, Lt. Governor

Steven Kelley, BOA Representative
johsrkelley@gmail.com

Toledo

Edmund Trafford Lt. Governor
apollo501@att.net

Vacant, BOA Representative

Western Reserve

Eric McDaniel, Lt. Governor
eric.s.mcdaniel@hotmail.com

Charles Thomasson BOA Representative
tuna12@ameritech.net

APPOINTED/VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Ann Gulbransen, Newsletter Editor
newsletter@ohiomayflower.org

Edmund Trafford, Membership Coordinator
membership@ohiomayflower.org

Heather Horton, Scholarship Chair
heather@hlhorton.org

Hilda Pappas, Jr. Membership Coordinator
hildapappas@gmail.com

Patricia Van Norman, Library Donation Coordinator
popinn@adelphia.net

CELEBRATING MEMBERSHIP

We are excited to recognize these membership milestones! Congratulations to all.

Cincinnati Colony

Lynn Staafford - 65 years
Theresa Okrutny - 40 years
James Austrow - 30 years
Kobi Spradlin - 25 years
Susan Gaede - 25 years
Peggy Reid - 25 years
Kristin McKee - 15 years
Diane Tichenor - 10 years
Nora Bushlow - 10 years
Betty Johnson - 10 years
Shaun Smith - 10 years
Star Vondrell - 10 years
Sara Ellert-Beck - 10 years
Janet Moreland - 10 years
Stanley Link - 10 years
Robert Bowers - 10 years
Connor Smith - 10 years

Cleveland Colony

Nancy Smekel - 55 years
Christopher Standish - 40 years
Barbara Reining - 30 years
Troy Bailey - 30 years
Russell Zinck - 20 years
Charles Yeager - 20 years
Laurel Jarembo - 20 years
Caroline McClennan - 15 years
John Ruhl - 10 years
Alex McCrea - 10 years
Ruth Morhard - 10 years
Alwyn Chao - 10 years

Columbus Colony

Margaret Hunter - 50 years
Patrick Miner - 45 years
Cynthia Bush - 45 years
Brenda Sandy - 35 years
Allison Kingsley - 35 years
Samuel Lange - 30 years
Mary Linn White - 25 years
Stephen Clippinger - 25 years
Marjorie Knight - 20 years
Jenny Seely - 20 years
Max Coates - 15 years
Diana Tucker - 15 years

Cody Malone - 10 years
Kristin O'Connor - 10 years
Susan Kennedy - 10 years
Ashley Manalanson - 10 years
Joshua Malone - 10 years
Sherry Hatcher - 10 years
Any Karch - 10 years
Lauren Karch - 10 years

Winthrop Worcester - 10 years
Robert Perry - 10 years
Bessie Ulrey - 10 years

Toledo Colony

Robert Rusoff - 65 years
Diana Ewald - 45 years
Janet Zirger - 30 years
Susan Fisher - 30 years
Karen Diehl - 25 years
Carolyn Edmonds - 15 years
Kathleen Dowling - 10 years
Jacqueline Miller - 10 years
Heather Reichert - 10 years

Western Reserve Colony

Vivian Harig - 40 years
Michael Harig - 40 years
Mary Habra - 35 years
Jennifer Keaton - 35 years
Charlotte Nesbett - 30 years
Janice Doullis - 20 years
Jacqueline Stefanka - 20 years
Mark Nichols - 20 years
Elizabeth Murphy - 15 years
Thomas Neel - 15 years
Grant Zaro - 10 years
Jennifer Fath-Pham - 10 yrs

Sara Fath-Benoit - 10 yrs
Ned Kendall - 10 years
Nancy Koverman - 10 years
Joyce Keeling - 10 yrs
Jennifer Schmitz - 10 years
Colin Schmitz - 10 years
Kelly Schmitz - 10 years
Patrick White - 10 years



Do you carry the DNA of your pilgrim ancestor?

Many of us have taken autosomal DNA tests through websites like Ancestry.com or my heritage.com. The ethnicity estimates and match lists are intriguing. The ethnicity estimates are based on the number of reference populations they have to compare with your results. The match lists are only as good as the family trees posted by your matches and they are only reliable for a handful of generations.

There are two other types of DNA that can give us a better look deep into the past, For men, you each carry a Y chromosome that gets inherited straight down your paternal line. You got yours from your father, he got his from his father and if you have an unbroken paternal line back to one of the pilgrim fathers, you are carrying his Y-

DNA. If your surname is the same as one of the pilgrims and your paternal line is unbroken. **the Mayflower DNA project wants you!** The project is housed at FamilyTree DNA which is the only company currently offering Y-DNA tests. The project has some funding that will pay for testing for you with a test called the Big Y test. If you have previously tested with a test with fewer markers, the project will pay to get your test upgraded. The project is hoping to get samples of the Y-DNA for every pilgrim who left male children.

There is another piece of DNA in all our cells called Mitochondrial DNA or MT-DNA for short. Only women can pass on MT-DNA, though men inherit theirs from their mothers. So if you are descended from one of the female passengers who left daughters and you have a lineage that is 100% maternal, then you carry the MT-DNA of one of those women. So if you can document that you descend from Priscilla Mullins Alden, Eleanor Billington, Remember Allerton, Mary Allerton, Mary Brewster, Susanna Chilton, Mary Chilton, Elizabeth Fisher Hopkins, Constance Hopkins, Elizabeth Tilley Howland or Susanna Jackson Winslow and your line is 100% female, then you carry the MT-DNA of your pilgrim ancestress. This is true if you are male or female but only females can pass it on so you got yours from your mother. If you can document this, **the Mayflower DNA project wants you too!**

If you meet either of these criteria, please think about participating. We would love to see more Ohio members represented in the ongoing research. Go to <https://www.familytreedna.com/> to get tested and then add your results to the Mayflower project.

Junior Essay Competition

In celebration of America 250:

"If you could meet any Revolutionary War Patriot, who would you like to meet and why?"

Entries should be 250 words, double spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font.

Please submit to SMDOHedu@hlhorton.org with the subject line: Juniors Essay Competition.

Entries are due by May 15th.

The SMDOH Junior Newsletter Essay contest is open to Ohio Mayflower Society Junior Members grades 5-12. In your email please include your name, age, grade, school (or homeschooled), contact email and contact phone number. The author of the best essay will be awarded \$100 (if he or she hasn't already won this year) and have his or her entry published in the Summer newsletter.



**You are cordially invited to our 128th Annual Assembly
Hosted by Columbus Colony**

When: May 15-16, 2026

Where: Columbus Airport Marriott
1375 North Cassady Avenue, Columbus, OH 43219
Phone: (614) 475-7551

To book a hotel room for the conference, use the link below or call the number listed above and mention Society of Mayflower Descendants Conference to secure our group rate of \$115.00 + applicable fees and taxes for each night. [**Book your group rate for Society of Mayflower Descendants Conference**](#)

Friday, April 17, 2026 Last day to register with hotel for block room rate

Friday, May 1, 2026 (postmark date) Last day to register for the event

Friday Evening: 6:30 – 8:30 Registration Upper Atrium/Foyer
7:00 – 9:00 Meet and Greet with your Pilgrim cousins
Self-Serve Pasta Station Buffet & Beverages Upper Atrium

Saturday: 7:15 – 9:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast Upper Atrium/Foyer
8:00 – 9:00 Board of Assistants Meeting (Board members only St. Charles III
9:15 – 10:00 “Navajo Code Talkers” Presented by Jennifer Garvin
Ann Simpson Davis DAR American Indians Committee Chair
10:15 – 12:00 noon Business Meeting
12:30 - 1:15 Plated Lunch
Classic Caesar Salad, Herb Marinated Grilled Breast of Chicken with Dijon Cream, Rice Pilaf, Green Beans, Chef Choice Dessert with Beverages
Child under age 12 menu: Chicken Fingers, French Fries, Applesauce.
1:30 – 2:30 Keynote Speaker, Lea Filson, 2014-2017 Governor General.
“The Mayflower Meeting House Project” Chair
3:00 assorted cookies to take for your drive home
(if you need a special diet for either day notify Hilda Pappas 720-819-5529)

All meetings on Saturday will be held in the Wallick Rooms. During each break time on Saturday, there will be an opportunity for each colony and each Ancestor Family to gather for a photo shoot in front of our backdrop.

Return this portion with your payment

Event Registration Fee (includes both days)	\$15.00	
Friday and Saturday	\$85.00	
Total due per person	\$100.00	_____
Event Registration Fee (pay if only attending 1 day)	\$15.00	
Saturday only	\$60.00	
Total due per person	\$75.00	_____
Child (under age 12)	\$15.00	_____
Total		_____

Name: _____

Colony: _____

Ancestor: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Guests: _____

Check payable to Columbus Colony SMDOH. Mail check and form to:
Hilda Pappas, 181 Lakeshore Drive W., Hebron, OH 43025-9427.
Form with check must be postmarked no later than Friday, May 1, 2026.
If you have questions email hildapappas@gmail.com

Making Money - Currency in the Colonies

Submitted by Edmund Trafford, Toledo Colony

The original settlers of Plymouth Colony (whom we collectively refer to as “Pilgrims” but who in reality consisted of Separatists, Adventurers, and Mayflower Crew) had no money beyond what they actually carried—English currency denominated in pounds, shillings, and pence. This lack of “hard” currency caused significant problems within the colony and in the colony’s dealings with other colonies and settlements. For example, a Pilgrim family might be relatively well-off in terms of payments owing to them from other settlers for goods or services provided. However, if other settlers had already spent their own currency in various transactions, they had no means of fulfilling their debts, and those who were owed compensation could not in turn contract further with others to pay for additional goods and services. Thus, they came to rely on anything of sufficient worth that could be bartered or traded and recognized as a legitimate means of exchange—nails, bear and deer hides, beaver furs, even Native American wampum in New England, or tobacco futures in Virginia. [Federal Reserve Bank Philadelphia, “Money in Colonial Times” (<https://www.philadelphiafed.org/education/teachers/resources/money-in-colonial-times>)]



In some northeastern colonies, wampum was recognized as a legitimate tool of barter, as it was highly valued locally. Deep purple wampum was deemed most valuable. Indigenous tribes used it as a means of exchange. The process to make wampum was labor-intensive with stone tools. Only the coastal tribes had sufficient access to the basic shells to make wampum. These factors increased its scarcity and consequent value among the early European traders, who understood it as a currency. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wampum>)



Quahogs were not only an important food to Wampanoag people, but also the principal material for making shell wampum. The Wampanoag are known historically for the manufacture and use of wampum as a trade item. Wampum belts were sacred and an important cultural property. Intricate trade patterns documented through wampum were found great distances inland, as evidence of trading. (<https://wampanoagtribe-nsn.gov/wampum>)

But even the relative value of bartered goods was not recognized from colony to colony. (<https://www.worldhistory.org/article/1729/colonial-american-currency/>) For example, the value of a promissory note based on tobacco growing might have been worth a great deal more in Virginia than in New England. So the colonists were in need of a way of “making money” that avoided the necessity of making allowances for the local values of some bartered goods and that also skirted the British prohibition on minting money.

The English were not always happy with goods that they could sell or barter—they wanted “cash on the barrelhead,” so to speak. How colonists were supposed to return currency to England when they were forbidden to create coinage is an issue that was addressed in several ways. Many colonies relied on other common coins to support their economies. The most common non-English coin in circulation throughout the colonies was the Spanish dollar in the form of coins known as *ocho reales* (better known as the legendary “pieces of eight”) which came into the British colonies through trade with the Spanish from their colonies in the West Indies and Mexico. Goods were valued in English pounds but could be purchased with Spanish dollars. [World History Encyclopedia, “Colonial American Currency” (<https://www.worldhistory.org/article/colonial-american-currency>)] The Spanish dollar was a silver coin worth eight *reales*. It was widely used as the first international currency because of its uniformity. Some countries marked the Spanish dollar with their own

imprint so that it could be used as a local currency. Because the Spanish dollar was widely used in Europe and the Americas, it became the first world currency by the sixteenth century. [“Dissemination of Hispanic-American Coinage,” Encyclopædia Britannica. (<https://www.britannica.com/money/coin>)]

In fact, the widespread acceptance of the Spanish dollar throughout the Americas later led the newly established United States of America, after the Revolution, to denominate its own national currency in dollars rather than in pounds. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_American_currency)



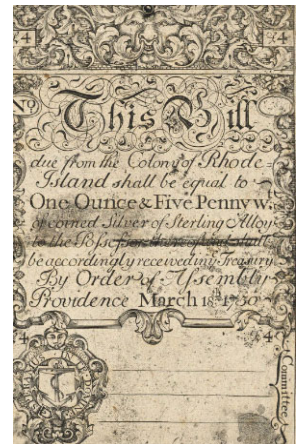
So the colonies learned to get by through the use of non-British specie (Spanish coinage, for example), by bartering items of broadly recognized value (such as animal hides), and by using locally valuable items (like Indian wampum) as currency.



Ultimately, however, a means of exchange that was recognized throughout the colonies was required. And so the colony governments turned to minting their own money, in contravention of the British government's refusal to do so.

The scarcity of coin currency was a problem for the growth of the New England economy. Prior to 1652, the Massachusetts financial system was based on bartering and foreign coinage. However, On 27 May 1652, the Massachusetts General Court appointed John Hull, a local silversmith, to be Boston's mint master *without notifying or seeking permission from the British government*. Coins were issued in denominations of 3 pence, 6 pence, and 1 shilling. The first pieces bore the letters "NE" and the denomination "III," "VI," or "XII." The coins

circulated widely inside North America and the Caribbean. The mint was shut down by the English government in 1682 and the Colony's charter was revoked two years later, in 1684, by King Charles I. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pine_tree_shilling)



Once the Revolution began, all the colonies began to issue their own currencies (sometimes called "bills of credit") to finance the war effort and support their local economies. These colonial currencies varied in value, were subject to inflation, and were frequently counterfeited by the British, contributing to their depreciation. (Benjamin Franklin wrote, "The artists they [the British] employed performed so well that immense quantities of these counterfeits which issued from the British government in New York, were circulated among the inhabitants of all the states, before the fraud was detected.") These

currencies were also in direct competition with the "national" currency issued by the Continental Congress (known as "Continental"). All of these currencies were effectively worthless by the end of the War. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_American_currency). The fledgling United States finally stabilized its currency in 1783.



Currency issued by the government during the Revolution suffered from severe inflation and lost much of its value, leading to the phrase "not worth a Continental." This was largely due to excessive issuance, lack of a strong backing by the government, and widespread British counterfeiting.

Candidates for the 2026-2029 Board of Assistants

For Governor



Mary Chase

Mary has been a member of GSMD since 1999. She has been an active member of the Cleveland Colony since 2008 serving as Deputy Lt Governor and treasurer. Mary has served the Ohio Society as Corresponding Secretary, Scholarship Chair and is currently Treasurer. She belongs to many other lineage societies where she has held leadership positions at the state and national levels. Her interests include reading, researching her family history and others and she loves to travel.

For Deputy Governor



Betty (Betsie) Gricar

Betsie has been a life member of the Columbus Colony for over 50 years. She has served the Society as Colony Historian as well as state Corresponding Secretary and is currently serving as Deputy Governor. She is involved in many other lineage societies, often in leadership roles at both the state and national levels. Her ancestor is William White through son Resolved.

For Captain



Merlyn (Troy) Bailey

Troy has been a member of the Cleveland Colony since 1995. He is a descendant of William Brewster, John Alden, Priscilla and William Mullins. He has been a member of the Northeastern Ohio Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution for almost 40 years, a past president of the Ohio Society SAR and currently serves as the Ohio Society registrar and serves on several committees of the National Society SAR. Troy has been serving as Captain since 2023.

For Corresponding Secretary



Wanda Langdon

Wanda has been an active member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants since 2018. She has faithfully served the Cincinnati as Lieutenant Governor and Corresponding Secretary, and since 2023 has held the office of Corresponding Secretary at the state society level. Deeply committed to lineage and historical preservation, Wanda is also involved in numerous other lineage societies, frequently serving in leadership roles at both the state and national levels. She traces her Mayflower lineage to passengers Edward Fuller and Richard Warren."

For Counselor



Carolyn Cheverine

Carolyn has been a member of the Cleveland Colony since 2002. She previously served as Counselor from 2008-2014. She is a descendant of Thomas Rogers, Stephen Hopkins, John Alden and George Soule. She is currently serving as the Cleveland Colony Historian.

For Elder



Carrie Nelson

Carrie has been a member of the Columbus Colony since 2023. She is unofficially serving as the Columbus Colony Historian and volunteers for several other lineage societies.

For Historian



Ann Fox Gulbransen

Ann has been a member of the Western Reserve Colony since 2006 and has served as Historian since 2007. She has helped over 1400 people become members of SMDOH. Her ancestors are Brewster and Hopkins. She also serves as editor of the Buckeye Mayflower and treasurer for the Western Reserve Colony. She volunteers for several other lineage societies and the Cuyahoga Valley Photo Society.

For Deputy Historian



Theresa Brown

Terri has been a member of the Western Reserve Colony since 2006. She has served as WR Junior Coordinator 2016-2018, WR Assistant Historian 2018-2019, WR Historian 2019-2022 and is the current Deputy Historian. She has been working to build a network of Colony based assistant historians to help prospective members with their applications. Her ancestors are John Alden, William & Priscilla Mullins, William, Mary and Love Brewster. John, Joan and Elizabeth Tilley, John Howland and Richard Warren.

For Surgeon



Elizabeth Finley-Belgrad MD

Elizabeth was a junior member of the Cleveland Colony her mother and grandmother being active members. After getting her medical degree and relocating to Ohio to be close to family she joined the Cleveland Colony as an adult in 1996. She has served on the board as the surgeon since that time.

For Recording Secretary



Virginia (Ginger) Kucan

Ginger is a new member of SMDOH being elected to the Columbus Colony in December, 2024. She has extensive experience as an administrative assistant in the corporate sector, combined with active leadership roles in multiple lineage societies. She brings strong organizational skills, attention to detail, and a deep commitment to service. She enjoys reading, knitting and quilting. She is a descendant of John Alden

For Treasurer



Laurence Winters

Laurence has been a member of the Cincinnati Colony since 2023 and is currently serving as the Colony Lt. Governor. He is a descendant of Edward Doty.

Mailed ballots must be received by Monday, May 11, 2023 . Ballots may be brought to the annual meeting and submitted before "last call for Ballots" at the business meeting May 16, 2026

Ballot for officers for the 2026-2029 term

See photos and biographies on previous pages

Office	Candidate	Vote
Governor	Mary Chase	For ☐ Against ☐ Write in: _____
Lt. Governor	Betsie Gricar	For ☐ Against ☐ Write in: _____
Captain	Merlyn (Troy) Bailey	For ☐ Against ☐ Write in: _____
Corresponding Secretary	Wanda Langdon	For ☐ Against ☐ Write in: _____
Counselor	Carokyn Cheverine	For ☐ Against ☐ Write in: _____
Deputy Historian	Terri Brown	For ☐ Against ☐ Write in: _____
Elder	Carrie Nelson	For ☐ Against ☐ Write in: _____
Historian	Ann Gulbransen	For ☐ Against ☐ Write in: _____
Recording Secretary	Virginia (Ginger) Kucan	For ☐ Against ☐ Write in: _____
Surgeon	Dr. Elizabeth Finley -Belgrad	For ☐ Against ☐ Write in: _____
Treasurer	Laurence Winters	For ☐ Against ☐ Write in: _____

Print this page and mail your completed ballot to

Ohio Mayflower Society
558 N. Market St
Wooster, OH 44691

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The other piece that happens during this meeting is the Ancestor Society meetings. It's a great way to see how the Mayflower Society works. The Spring 2026 Mayflower Quarterly has all information as well as the member section on TheMayflowerSociety.org website. PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING YOUR OHIO COUSINS IN PLYMOUTH. We are hoping to have an Ohio get -together during Congress.

Finally, I want to mention the progress on the new website (www.ohiomayflower.org) and improving efficiencies for SMDOH. As I write this the process to remove our materials from Dropbox to Google workspace that we can access at no cost to SMDOH as we qualify under our tax status. Emails have been in use for the past several months on the same platform. In May when my term ends the governor email, (governor@ohiomayflower.org), will continue to be on the website for the new Governor, which is great because it's very confusing to everyone to change the governor email every three years.

As this is my last newsletter communication with you as Governor, I want to Thank all the members, colony leadership and BOA members for their patience and support for continuing the growth of SMDOH. The Strategic Plan is always a work in progress and is moving forward at a reasonable pace. It has been my greatest honor and pleasure to serve you and our Ancestors. As past governor I will remain involved in supporting the new governor and board.

Happy Spring

Beth Anderson- Governor SMDOH, Cincinnati Colony

Plymouth 400 Legacy

The Mayflower Pilgrims who died the first winter in Plymouth were buried on Coles's Hill, which is located across from Plymouth Rock.

In the 19th century, some of the remains became exposed due to erosion and construction. The remains were then stored in the roof of the original portico over Plymouth Rock. But when that portico was removed in 1920, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants constructed the Pilgrim Sarcophagus to hold the remains. It is located at the top of Cole's Hill.

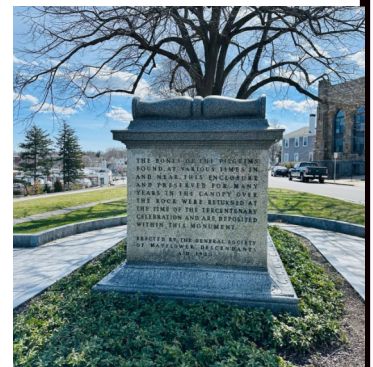
One side of the Sarcophagus includes this inscription:

"This Monument Marks the First Burying Ground in Plymouth of the Passengers of the Mayflower Here, under cover of darkness, the fast dwindling company laid their dead leveling the earth above them lest the Indians should learn how many were in the graves.



Reader! History records no nobler venture for faith and freedom than this Pilgrim band. In weariness and painfulness, in watchings, often in hunger and cold, they laid the foundations of a state wherein every man, through countless ages, should have liberty to worship God in his own way. May their example inspire thee to do thy part in perpetuating and spreading the lofty ideals of our republic throughout the world!"

The opposite side lists the names of the Pilgrims who died during the first year.



#pilgrimsarcophagus #sarcophagus #coleshill #plymouthma #pilgrims
#plymouthrock #historicsites #plymouthwaterfront #plymouthcolony #plymouthhistory #plymouth400

COLONY CHRONICLES

Cincinnati Colony

As we begin a new year, the Cincinnati Colony continues to stay active and engaged, representing our community with pride and planning meaningful opportunities for fellowship and learning. Below are highlights from this past quarter and details on our upcoming events.

Compact Day Luncheon

Our Compact Day Luncheon was held on Saturday, November 8, 2025 at The RSVP Event Center in Loveland, Ohio. There were 48 attendees present. Our speaker was Vince McGeehan from the Cincinnati SAR Chapter presented “The Captain Howard Miller Flag Collection.” We recognized and inducted 12 new members to our Colony.

Colony Elections

Our Colony elections were held during the Compact Day Luncheon on Saturday, November 8, 2025. Once ballots were counted, the new officers were sworn in for the November 2025 – November 2027 term. The officers are: Laurence Winters (Lt. Governor), Wanda Langdon (Corresponding Secretary), Paige Craig (Recording Secretary), Clay Crandall (Treasurer), Andy Cook (Historian), Karen Wiggins (Elder), Carol Byrd (Deputy Elder), Beth Anderson (Jr. Membership Coordinator). Open positions are: BOA Rep, Deputy Historian and Deputy Governor.

Ohio Genealogical Society 2026 Conference

The Ohio Genealogical Society 2026 conference is April 29 – May 2 in Sharonville, OH at the Sharonville Convention Center. Our colony will have a booth at the event with members volunteering their time to staff the booth. More information on this event can be found here: <https://www.ogs.org/2026-conference/>

Spring Event

Our Colony is currently planning for a spring event. Information will be sent out to the membership by the end of March.

Laurence Winters, Lt. Governor

Cleveland Colony

2026 Meetings: In 2026, the colony will continue to hold four board of assistant’s meetings via zoom and one annual in-person or zoom Spring business meeting.

2026 Spring Event: The 2026 Spring event will be held at the Dunham Tavern Museum Barn Sunday April 12, 2026 located at 6709 Euclid Avenue Cleveland, Ohio. Established in 1824, Dunham Tavern is the oldest building still standing on its original site in the City of Cleveland. During the meeting, we will install our new slate of officers for the 2026-2029 term. The program will be “The New Pilgrims” family band. They are the children of the Western Reserve Colony member Eric McDaniel. The talented six siblings performed at the 2025 State meeting held in Mason, Ohio hosted by the Cincinnati Colony. Their instrumental performance was enjoyed by all. Additionally, the museum will be opened for a tour. Light refreshments will be served.



2026 Summer Event: The 2026 Summer event is scheduled for Sunday June 28, 2026 at the 103rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Civil War Museum which includes a private tour located at 5501 E. Lake Road Sheffield, Ohio. The 103rd OVI Memorial Foundation is dedicated to perpetuating the heroic deeds and services of the men who served in 103rd Regiment during the Civil War. It was originally built by the veterans themselves to serve as a barracks during the reunions. In the 1970's this structure was completely restored and became the permanent home for the museum and artifacts. The Museum bordering Lake Erie is a historical landmark. Light refreshments will be served.

2026 Compact Day Dinner: The 406th Mayflower Compact Day and 96th Cleveland Colony Dinner buffet luncheon event held at the Lakewood Country Club located in Westlake, Ohio Saturday November 14, 2026. We will offer zoom availability with Leanne McGann as our zoom manager again. Our Keynote speaker will be determined at a later date. 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 new colony Elder. We will recognize Veterans and thank them for their service and we will never forget. As always, we will open the invitation to other local historical organizations. The invitation will be sent electronically via Constant Contact to members with email addresses and members without email addresses will be mailed out via USPS. Additionally, we will ask our new webmaster to post the invitation to 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

Columbus Colony

The Columbus Colony invites you to attend the 128th Annual Assembly May 15-16, 2026 at the Columbus Airport Marriott, 1375 North Cassady Avenue, Columbus, OH 43219. Our Keynote speaker will be former Governor General Lea Filson who will bring us up to date on the Pilgrim Meetinghouse project. See page 5 for a copy of the invitation and RSVP form. We hope to see you there!

Toledo Colony

Meetings: In 2025, in-person Toledo BOA meetings followed our 29 March 2025 Spring Luncheon Gathering and our 1 November Compact Day Luncheon, with additional meetings and group communications as required. Our next BOA meeting will occur following our 18 April 2026 Spring Luncheon Gathering.

2026 Spring Luncheon Gathering: This event is scheduled for 18 April 2026. Our speakers will be Lt. Governor Edmund Trafford and Juniors Program Chair Andrea Traunero. The topic is "The Life and Times of Pastor John Robinson." The observance of the four-hundredth anniversary of the death of the "Pastor to the Pilgrims" occurred in 2025.

2025 Compact Day: This event took place on Saturday, 1 November 2025. Our speaker was Chris Gillcrist from the National Great Lakes Museum in Toledo who presented a talk on the War of 1812 on Lake Erie.

Newsletter: The "Toledo Colony Chronicle" Winter 2026 issue was released following our Compact Day Luncheon Gathering. Our Summer 2026 issue will be released following our Summer Event. It will carry the minutes of our Spring Luncheon Gathering as well as information announcing our 2026 Compact Day Luncheon Gathering.

Edmund Trafford, Lt. Governor

Western Reserve Colony

The Western Reserve Colony gathered for a summer picnic on a very soggy day in Kent, OH. We then had a great meeting in September at the Spread Eagle Tavern in Hanoverton where we learned about the underground railroad in Eastern Ohio.



We celebrated Compact Day on November 9, 2025 with a great speaker reviewing old photographs of Canton.

We elected out new board at that meeting:

Lt Governor - Eric McDaniel
 Deputy Lt Governor - Cindy Nichols
 Historian - David Burnham
 Treasurer - Ann Gulbransen
 Elder - Sharen Jarzen
 BOA Rep - Charles Thomasson



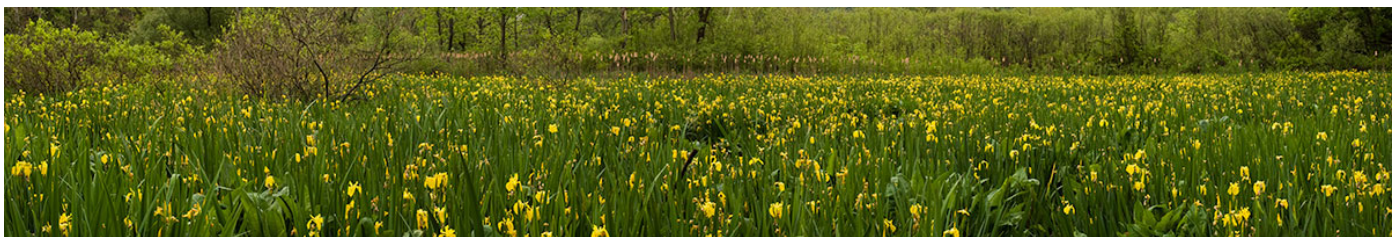
The Western Reserve Colony hosted Mr. Patrick Henry Jolly on March 22nd for his nationally renowned reenactment of his ancestor, Patrick Henry. The gathering, which was open to the public, took place at Hudson Presbyterian Church, where he provided a wonderful experience for those in attendance.

Our next meeting, the annual picnic, will be held at Greentown Community Park in Lake Township, Ohio on June 13th from 12:00-3:00. We are looking forward to the time of fellowship and gathering for our colony members.

The Western Reserve Colony looks forward to additional meeting in the Fall and to our Compact Day in November. While plans still being finalized, we will likely continue to focus our Country's founding and the 250th celebration.

Eric S. McDaniel, Lt. Governor, Western Reserve Colony

Happy Spring



Flag Iris field, Cuyahoga Valley National Park

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 22, 2026– Western Reserve event with Patrick Henry Jolly. 2:00p.m. Hudson Presbyterian Church

April 12, 2026 - Cleveland Colony spring gathering Dunham Barn

April 18, 2026 - Toledo Colony Spring gathering

April 29-May 2 2026 - Ohio Genealogical Society annual conference, Sharonville Convention Center

May 15-16 - SMDOH annual assembly, Columbus Airport Marriott

June 13 2026 - Western Reserve Colony summer picnic, Greentown Community Park

June 28, 2026 - Cleveland Colony summer event at the 103rd OVI museum in Sheffield, OH

November 14, 2025 - Cleveland Compact Day, Lakewood Country Club

A message from the Governor General

Dear Friends,

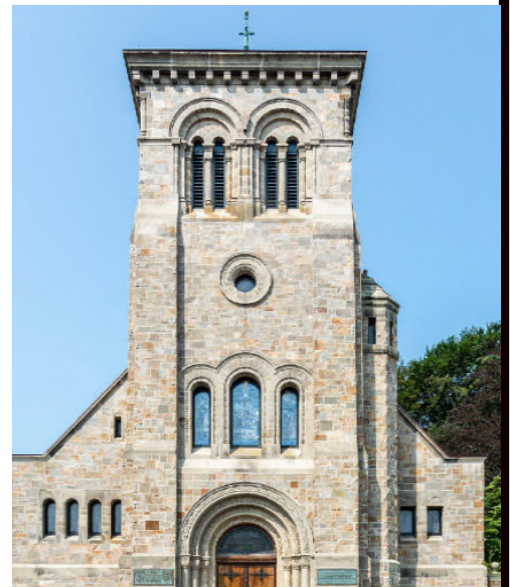
Thank you for your extraordinary support to the [Meetinghouse Campaign](#) since 2017. Your support has brought us thus far and we are very grateful to the members and friends of the Mayflower Society who have prioritized the Meetinghouse in their giving. We are also appreciative of the State Societies and Colonies who have enthusiastically participated on behalf of their members. The Meetinghouse will belong to all of us, and it is this collective commitment through this campaign that will make all the difference.

We are eager to build on your dedication and grow momentum across the country. As you'll see in the enclosed update, work is advancing on the building renovation and exhibits that will bring Mayflower history to life for generations to come. We are excited to share this progress with you and will continue to keep all supporters, as well as the broader community, informed as we move forward.

We'd love to hear from you, whether you have questions about the campaign, want to learn more about upcoming opportunities to get involved, or know others who share our passion for preserving this legacy. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

With gratitude and enthusiasm for all that's ahead,
Lisa Pennington

[Click here for the meeting house update!](#)



Dues collection update

We heard you about your frustrations with PayPal trying to pay your annual dues. Our new online payment system using Stripe is up and running and we have eliminated PayPal from our website. When we start collecting dues again in late August, you should find the new system easier to use.

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Silver book donation

On March 18, 2026, Historian Ann Gulbransen and Western Reserve Colony member Becky Woodruff delivered a collection of Silver books to the Stark County library in Canton. They had a partial collection which we have now completed.

If you are not aware, the Stark County library is in temporary quarters. They are in the old Nationwide building on Market Street in Canton. Librarian Stephanie Houck told us that the old library is almost completely demolished. Over the next two years, the space where the old library was will be turned into a parking lot and the old parking lot will be where a totally new library will be built.



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.

If you would prefer a black and white paper copy of the full newsletter mailed to your home, you need to subscribe to cover the printing and mailing costs. To subscribe, you must pay \$8.00 each year for 4 issues. You can subscribe when you pay your annual dues or at any time during the year. Send your \$8.00 to Treasurer Mary Chase, 7655 Isaac Drive Middleburg Heights, OH 44130 to subscribe mid-year or subscribe at www.ohiomayflower.org/newsletters to pay online.