

THE KENTUCKY PILGRIM

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Kentucky
Spring 2018 Issue

Mayflower Governor's Message



Ben J. Talbott, Jr.

As we approach our Spring Meeting of KSMD, things appear to be going well for our Society. Membership continues to grow, plans are well underway for the upcoming meeting to be held at the Idle Hour Country Club in Lexington, thanks to Bill Swinford's sponsorship, and funds are already coming in for GSMD's restoration of the First Parish Church and Meeting House facility in Plymouth. KSMD's balance sheet continues to be strong, and our new Member Directory is presently being prepared thanks to the generous efforts of Fay Charpentier-Ford and Jerry Ford.

As you all may know, our Spring Meeting and luncheon will be held Saturday, April 28, 2018, and in addition

to a delicious luncheon it should be a fun-filled time. We hope many of you will attend.

With reference to our fundraising efforts on behalf of GSMD for the restoration of the First Parish Church and Meeting House, we are already making great progress largely as a result of some very generous contributions of our Board members, as well as from a few other of our regular members. Pursuant to the resolution adopted by the Board of Assistants at its last meeting of November 18, 2017, I have recently appointed Ann Derrick and Martina Ockerman as Co-Chairs of the fundraising committee and both of them have already made wonderful contributions of both time and money to this enterprise. In this connection, I wish to point out that all of the money raised will only go to the restoration of the physical facilities which will be owned entirely by GSMD and none will go to the presently affiliated church organization which is deeding the facility to GSMD.

Because we are rapidly approaching the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower's landing in America, the GSMD has requested that all its member societies develop plans for local or statewide recognition and celebration of that historic occasion. Therefore, I would like to

establish a KSMD committee to work on this question. For any of you who are interested in this project, I request that you let me know by letter, phone call, or other communication, whether or not you are willing to serve on such a committee. Furthermore, even if you do not wish to be on the committee, but you have some good ideas, please communicate those to me anyway.

For those of you who may not yet know, in the last few months new efforts have been made to revitalize our KSMD website to bring it more up to date with current developments of KSMD. Thus, in response to our last newsletter seeking a “computer guru”, Howard Roberson and Jim Hancock have generously responded with their fine assistance in making our website more up to date and much more informative and useful, for all of which I am very grateful. To reach the KSMD website, type in the following: <http://www.kentuckymayflower.com>

The GSMD has announced that its next annual meeting will be held September 5-9, 2018 at the Pheasant Run Resort, located at 4051 East Main Street, St. Charles, Illinois, which is about forty-five miles west of Chicago. Those wishing to attend will be given a special hotel rate of \$109.00, plus tax, on a first come, first reserve basis. Any reservations made can be cancelled without charge, if cancellation is made within at least 48 hours in advance. Those wishing to attend should, of course, also register with the GSMD by or before July 22, 2018, since

late fees will be added to your charges after that date for any late registration.

KSMD Fall Meeting on November 28, 2017

Nearly sixty members and guests of the Kentucky Society of Mayflower Descendants (KSMD) gathered together in mid-November for their annual Fall Meeting and Thanksgiving lunch at the Pendennis Club in downtown Louisville. The event, chaired by newly-elected Governor, Ben J. Talbott, Jr., was held to commemorate the Mayflower Compact and the First Thanksgiving of their ancestors who came over on the Mayflower from England in 1620 to settle in the new world.

A traditional Thanksgiving feast was served to commemorate our national Thanksgiving holiday which included turkey and dressing, corn pudding, green beans, cranberry sauce, and apple pie a la mode. Following opening remarks, Governor Talbott noted that this day, November 18 also happened to be the 75th birthday of his wife, Sandy, and so the day held additional meaning for him and family members. He then gave a special welcome to John Harralson, Jr. legendary veteran photographer of The Voice-Tribune, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday, yet remained today as active as ever.

Robert R. Silverthorn, Jr.*Guest Speaker*

Following the luncheon, guest speaker Major General (Ret.) Robert R. Silverthorn, Jr. an accomplished attorney and constitutional law expert and historian gave a special presentation about the historical significance of the Mayflower Compact, the events leading up to its signing, and its impact on the United States Constitution. In so doing, Silverthorn said that after the treacherous voyage across the Atlantic and the establishment of Plymouth Colony only about half of the 102 passengers survived the first year. He noted that the dire living conditions and hardships endured by the passengers, including, their very limited space aboard the vessel itself, the violently stormy seas, and their lack of fresh fruits, vegetables, and other necessities, and the extremely cold winter, made for a perilous year.

The Mayflower passengers not only included the religiously devout Protestants who were coming to America in search of religious liberty and independence, but also others who had been selected only for their special skills. To make certain that these two opposing groups were all treated equally, on November 11, 1620 they entered into the Mayflower Compact which guaranteed equal voting rights and fairness to all male passengers. “The Mayflower Compact was the first written framework in establishing a democratic form of government in America and is widely viewed as the predecessor to our U.S. Constitution,” said Silverthorn. Silverthorn also noted that in 1620 when the Pilgrims came to America there were no immigration laws. Later, until after the adoption of the U.S. Constitution, such laws as existed were only those adopted by the various states that came into existence.

Following Gen. Silverthorn’s presentation, Governor Ben Talbott recognized former KSMD Governor Fay Charpentier-Ford with a national award granted to her by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) for her unwavering support and service to the GSMD and KSMD. To illustrate the importance of this award, Governor Talbott said, “nationally in a society of almost 129-thousand members, the GSMD has only awarded 12 such honors this past year.” That’s one in 10,000 members.

The KSMD meets twice a year; once in November at the annual Compact Day meeting and again in the spring. The next KSMD meeting will be held on April 28, 2018 at Idle Hour Country Club in Lexington, KY.

If you are interested in learning more about the KY Society or want to become a member and can document descent from one or more Mayflower pilgrims, please contact KSMD Governor Ben J. Talbott, Jr. at (502) 648-6749 or KSMD Historian and First Deputy Governor Anissa Davis at (859) 873-0359.

KSMD Spring Meeting on April 28, 2018

The Spring meeting of KSMD will be held at the Idle Hour Country Club in Lexington, Kentucky on Saturday, April 28, 2018 beginning at 11:45 a.m. Following the usual preceding events, a delicious luncheon beginning with chilled strawberry soup and continuing with chicken and wild mushroom crepes served with a sherry cream sauce, and asparagus and wild rice pilaf, including soft rolls and butter, along with your choices of coffee, iced tea, lemonade and water, followed by a panna cotta desert made of vanilla with strawberry coulis and fresh strawberries will be served. After said lunch Stephen M. Vest will give an enlightening and very entertaining talk on the topic of Six Degrees of

Separation Kentucky Style. You will love this talk.

Stephen M. Vest
Guest Speaker



Stephen M. Vest is the editor, publisher and founder of *Kentucky Monthly* magazine, which won the Governor Award (Media) in 2005. Vest, along with long-time journalist Michael Embry, founded *Kentucky Monthly* in 1998 and today it has a circulation of more than 35,000 with readers in every state. He's also the author of *Unexpected Inheritance* (Butler Books 2014), two collections of his columns, and the publisher of the 2012 anthology *Kentucky's Twelve Days of Christmas*.

A native Kentuckian, Vest holds degrees from the University of Louisville (1986) and Murray State University (MFA in Creative Nonfiction. 2011). His work has appeared in *The Journal of Kentucky*

Studies, Still (and others). He has been anthologized in *Of Woods and Waters: An Outdoor Reader* and is a contributor to the *Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*. He is also the editor of *SAR Magazine*, the National Society Sons of the American Revolution's quarterly magazine.

Vest and his wife, Kay, reside in Frankfort with the youngest of their four delightful children.

Near the end of proceeding there will be a drawing for a special gift for which every KSMD member or guest will be eligible to win. The luncheon cost for each person attending is only \$37.50, so you are encouraged to get your orders in as soon as possible. Anyone having a food allergy with reference to any item on the menu must refer to such a problem in their acceptance of the KSMD invitation in order for an acceptable food replacement to be made available.

The Spring meeting is almost always a gorgeous time of the year to come to Lexington to view the newly blossoming dogwood trees and flowers, and to see the beautiful horses grazing on the many horse farms in the area. With Derby Day barely around the corner and everyone already in an excited and celebratory mood, it's a great time to join your fellow Mayflower descendants, at least some of whom are sure to be your cousins. Both before and after the meeting's formalities, members and guests are

encouraged to mingle and talk and get to know one another.

Recent Changes in KSMD Membership

Since our last Fall Meeting of November 18, 2017, there have been very few changes to our membership list. Fortunately, in that period only one KSMD member has died, and that was Mary Dan Raider, a relatively new member, and the mother of our Deputy Governor and Historian, Anissa Davis. She will truly be missed.

For the same period of time, the KSMD has acquired two new members. They are:

- (a) Janet Dorothy (Smith) Clawson, of 3785 Jamacia Court, Lexington, Kentucky, 40509, a descendant of John Alden, and
- (b) Dr. Kim (Clawson) Rosentein, of 3801 Brier East Road, Lexington, Kentucky 40509, also a descendant of John Alden.

In addition to these new members, KSMD has also received applications from others who are seeking membership, but who have not yet been proven and/or confirmed by GSMD.

The GSMD's DNA Project

In 1620, 102 English Separatists aboard the Mayflower landed in New England. Because of the harsh winter, inadequate food supplies, poor shelter, and illness, only 52 of the original Pilgrims survived to establish Plymouth Colony. Their descendants make up some of the oldest families in America.

Through a recent cooperative undertaking between Family Tree DNA and GSMD, a project is now underway to match the genes of these descendants back to their original Mayflower ancestors. GSMD hopes to get as many members as possible to participate in this project.

Some GSMD members have expressed concern about the sale or other distribution of their DNA to outside sources, but GSMD and Family Tree DNA have given assurances that no such sale or other distribution of a member's DNA will occur. If at any time the tested member wants his or her data removed, or their sample DNA destroyed, Family Tree DNA will comply with such request.

To join the project, go to www.FTDNA.com. On the tab near the top, click on "Projects". In the search box, type "Mayflower". Then open the Mayflower Project title. The cost of any tests bought from the

Mayflower DNA Project are discounted for members.

For answers to additional questions which GSMD members may have concerning this project, interested members should contact the Project Administrator, Mike Terry, who can be emailed at mterry3158@sbcglobal.net. It is expected that participation in the Mayflower Project will eventually open to those participants considerable ancestral and genealogical information not otherwise obtainable.

First Parish Church and Meeting House

In a recent conversation with Lea Filson, who is the immediate past Governor General of GSMD, KSMD Governor Ben Talbott learned that all gifts for the restoration and renovation of the First Parish Church and Meeting House will be publicly acknowledged by GSMD. That public acknowledgement is expected to occur in two ways. First, GSMD will list the names of such donors on its website under a certain listed category such as Contributions up to \$500, and all contributions over \$500 up to \$1,000, etc. They already are using website listings of this type for contributions which have already been paid to GSMD for the aforesaid restoration.

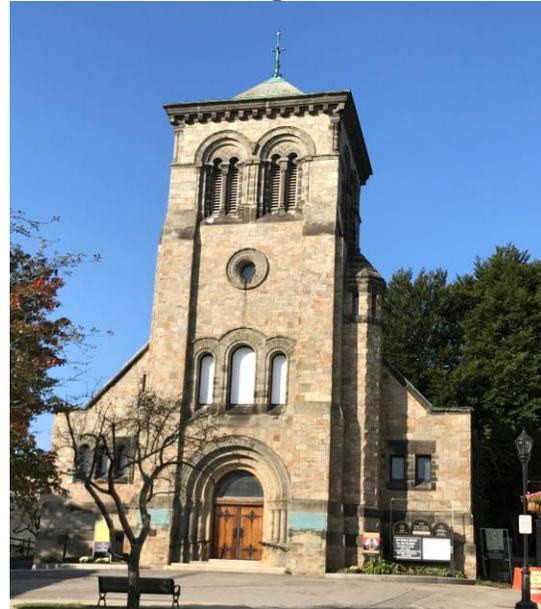
As Lea Filson further explained to Governor Talbott, once the renovations are completed, GSMD later will permanently recognize the names and contributions of those donors on a permanent plaque to be placed in the Meeting House itself. Every donor's name will be listed unless such member donor requests to be listed as anonymous.

Lea Filson also informed Governor Talbott that everyone who contributes \$50 or more will also be given a pin or medal of some sort in appreciation of their gift. Moreover, in addition to the members' individual gift which will be recognized, the member Mayflower societies will also be recognized for the total gifts of said societies. Thus, if KSMD's members contribute a total of \$10,000 or more, KSMD's members would be recognized for the total of those contributions.

In addition, Lea Filson has informed Governor Talbott that to avoid any confusion about the nature or use of the funds received, she would prefer that the First Parish Church not be named as a donee, but that the KSMD check only refer to the Meeting House, so that the Church's present corporate member entity can't mistakenly claim any share of the funds or any interest in them. Therefore, when KSMD writes its

check to GSMD we will make it clear that all the funds go to GSMD, but to be used for the restoration of the facility and are not to go to some other unintended donee.

First Parish Church and Meeting House



Inside First Parish Church

