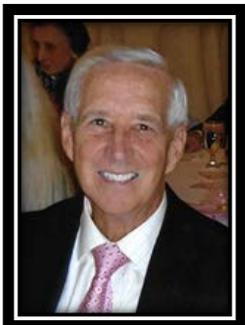


# THE KENTUCKY PILGRIM

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Fall 2019 Issue

## Governor Ben Talbott's Message



I wish to thank KSMD Board member John Ward for generously granting me and my other family members use of one of his Derby Week boxes on the Tuesday before the Derby. His third-floor clubhouse box close to the finish line was fabulous, and the weather turned out to be beautiful, probably the best all week, and a whole lot better than Derby Day itself.

Beginning September 5 through September 8, 2019, I attended with my wife, Sandy, and my daughter, Betty Burton, and her husband, Steve Burton, the GSMD Board of Assistants meeting in Denver, Colorado. Although we were the only Kentuckians present, we had a great time. It was especially fun traveling around Denver and into the Rocky Mountains. The mountains were majestic, awe-inspiring and gorgeous beyond belief.

With the 2019 Annual Meeting being the last before the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Mayflower* voyage, hearing about the plans and expectations for our anniversary year was very exciting. The meeting itself is more fully described in the following article.

As noted in a later article in this newsletter, KSMD has done well in raising money for the GSMD Meetinghouse restoration project. Those who have given money are individually listed in that article. However, another person whom I wish to thank is Jim Bentley, one of the early governors of KSMD. It was Jim's recommendation that I request a donation from the Society of Colonial Wars, which I did with his help and the help of William Carrell II, KSMD's former Governor and then Governor of the Kentucky Society of Colonial Wars. As a consequence of their mutual assistance, we received a \$1,000.00 donation from the Kentucky Society of Colonial Wars and \$816.54 from the General Society of Colonial Wars.

Thus, a special thanks goes to the state and national Society of



Steve and Betty Burton

Colonial Wars for their generous gifts, and to Jim Bentley and Bill Carrell for their assistance. I also wish to thank my sister, Marie Dering, for her generous gift of \$2,000.00 for this worthy cause, and Evelyn Zolendek also for her generous gift of \$1,500 as well as former Gov. Carroll Goslee for his generous gift of \$1,000. All our donors deserve a special thanks, and on behalf of GSMD, Lea Filson wrote us a wonderful letter of appreciation for the kind generosity of our KSMD members.

## This Year's Annual Meeting of The GSMD Board of Assistants

This year the GSMD annual meeting of the Board of Assistants was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Denver, Colorado from Sept. 5, 2019 through Sept. 8, 2019. Not including spouses and other guests, 217 GSMD AGs and DGGs were present. These included DGG Ben Talbott and Acting AG Betty Burton.

As usual the meeting opened with the Invocation, the Color Guard Flag Ceremony, i.e., the Presentation of the Colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, the recognition of various officers, the election and roll call of the AGs and DGGs, reports of the various officers and staff, and the presentation and vote upon various motions, etc.



Gov. Ben Talbott &  
GSMD Gov. Gen. Garmany

Important points of interest included the following: (a) GSMD is currently incurring expenses in excess of revenues thus requiring an invasion of principal of about 5% this year. (b) One reason for this loss is the expense of administering new member applications. Last year these expenses exceeded application fees by the amount of \$179,000. This brought up the question of whether GSMD should raise application fees and/or dues. The general impression is that we need to raise both. With 2020 now rapidly approaching, GSMD is anticipating a large number of new applications (possibly around 3,500 next year), and an enormous number of visitors next year to Plymouth, perhaps in excess of 500,000.

With the number of expected visitors next year, revenues should increase considerably through sales of merchandise, entry fees and admissions, and special events. One such event will be the sailing of the *Mayflower II*, now to be renamed *Ship Mayflower* or simply *Mayflower*, from Provincetown to Plymouth. This voyage is expected to carry about twenty-five paying guests at a cost of \$2,800 each. In addition to the voyage itself, the guests will witness the reenactment of the signing of the *Mayflower Compact*. Other events are being scheduled in Boston, etc.

One major event will be the entry of a *Mayflower* float in the Rose Bowl Parade in California. The California Society has already raised around \$100,000 for this project, and it is hoping to raise at least \$100,000 more to complete it. They have asked for donations from all the other state societies. It is expected that the *Mayflower* float will have a prominent position in the parade and that it will be viewed world-wide by at least 50,000,000 people.

For some of the *Mayflower* proceedings the GSMD is hoping to have more members dress up as Pilgrims, and it is seeking to increase the number of Color Guards to twenty-three, which was the actual number on the *Mayflower* in 1620.

All told, the celebrations of our 400th anniversary next year are expected to be huge. Many activities are being planned and those wishing to participate need to sign up as soon as possible in order to ensure their participation.

### **KSMD's Spring Meeting**

April 27, 2019

On Saturday, April 27, 2019 the KSMD held its Spring Meeting at the beautiful Idle Hour Country Club in Lexington, Kentucky.

At approximately 12:00 noon, Governor Ben J. Talbott opened the meeting by welcoming the forty-nine attending members and guests and thanking them for coming. Gov. Talbott especially noted the attendance of his first cousin, George McNair, a new member who was attending his first KSMD meeting.



*Martina Ockerman*

Following Gov. Talbott's opening of the meeting, KSMD's Elder, Martina Ockerman, gave the Invocation, which was then followed by the Flag Ceremony and the

Pledge of Allegiance led by KSMD's Captain, David Hampton.

Gov. Talbott next called for the election of the two new At-Large Board Members to fill the vacancies of the expiring terms of KSMD's former At-Large Board Members. Pursuant to KSMD's Constitution and Bylaws, Gov. Talbott stated that the nominees for these two positions were Carita Warner and Betty Burton, both of whom were then unanimously elected by the KSMD members.



*Anissa Davis*

KSMD Historian Anissa Davis then gave her report noting that we had briefly reached 200 members, but then had lost two members due to recent deaths. She stated that it was her goal to get the membership permanently above 200. In any event, our newest members are: George Danforth McNair, a descendant of John Alden; Katherine Griggs Bux, a descendant of Miles Standish; Laura Frances Turner, a descendant of John Howland; Margaret Johnson McDonald, a descendant of Isaac Allerton; Ann Vaugh Broadbent Hargis, a descendant of William Bradford; Lola Jane Davidson, a descendant of Miles Standish; Jamie Hannah Rosenstein, a descendant of John Alden; David Michael Metz, a descendant of Henry Samson; Jennifer Lee Lindsay, a descendant of William White and John Jacob Arsenstam, a descendant of William Bradford. In addition, three other applications were pending at the GSMD in Plymouth, Massachusetts, and fourteen others were in process at KSMD under the guidance of Anissa Davis.

Following Anissa Davis' report, Martina Ockerman gave the Blessing. The lunch itself included Chilled Strawberry Soup, followed by Chicken and Wild Mushroom Crepes served with a Sherry Cream Sauce, and Asparagus and Wild Rice Pilaf, soft rolls and butter, coffee, iced tea, lemonade and water, and a delicious Panna Cotta Dessert made of Vanilla with Strawberry Coulis and Fresh Strawberries.

Following the meal, Gov. Talbott introduced the event's speaker, Bill Carrell II, who is himself a former Governor of KSMD. Carrell has also served as Governor of the Kentucky Jamestown Society and Governor of the



*William Carrell II*

Kentucky Society of Colonial Wars and was recently elected Governor General of the Hereditary Order of Descendants of Colonial Governors. Having previously given numerous oral historical presentations, and having written for a number of historical publications, Carrell is well-known for his historical knowledge and acumen. The topic of Carrell's speech to the KSMD was "Strangers Among Us: John Alden and His Family".

Using a slide presentation of a number of maps, paintings and photographs, Bill Carrell explained that John Alden was born in England in 1598, and in 1620 he was hired as cooper, i.e., a barrel maker, and carpenter for the *Mayflower* voyage. Alden therefore was not one of the devoutly religious Separatists, or "Saints" on board the *Mayflower*, but rather was one of the so-called "Strangers" who was selected by the "Saints" because of his capabilities and needed talents. In September 1620, the *Mayflower* and its 102 passengers and approximately 30 or so crew members set sail from Plymouth, England. Although their destination was Virginia, they actually landed far north of Virginia in what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts.

As a result of being outside their intended destination, the "Strangers" contended that they were not bound by their original agreements and could leave anytime. To resolve this dispute, all the male passengers entered into the *Mayflower Compact*, which guaranteed to each of the "Strangers" an equal vote to that of each of the male "Saints".

One of those "Saints" was William Mullins, who had been born in 1572, and accompanying him were his wife Alice, and his daughter Priscilla, who ended up marrying John Alden. They bore ten children, one of whom was Ruth from whom Bill Carrell is descended. During John Alden's life he was an active member of the Pilgrim community in Massachusetts, including as Governor of Plymouth Colony, and in the naming of Cape Cod. He also held a number of other prominent positions in both Plymouth and Duxbury. John Alden died on September 12, 1687. By the time of his death he had outlived all the other male passengers of the *Mayflower*.

In Carrell's presentation he showed many interesting pictures, including the replica of Alden's first home in America, plus the actual site of his original home in the New World, his gravesite, the later-constructed Alden home in Duxbury, pieces of pottery from the original Alden home, parts of dresses worn by Priscilla Mullins Alden, a letter written by John Alden, and the original foundation of



Former Governor  
Fay Charpentier-Ford

the Alden home in Duxbury, Massachusetts after the Aldens, along with a few other Pilgrim residents left Plymouth Church to start their own separate congregation. The Alden house in Duxbury is believed to have been built in 1653, probably by John Alden and his son Jonathan. That house today is on a 2.45-acre tract which has been in the Alden family continuously since at least 1628. It is now on the National Historic Landmark Registry and is believed to be the oldest continuously owned family landholding in British North America. That small tract was originally part of a 100-acre parcel of land acquired by John Alden.

Of all the passengers on the *Mayflower*, John Alden and Priscilla Mullins Alden are believed to have more living descendants in America than anyone (though equal to Priscilla's father William Mullins). It is estimated that they may now have over 1,000,000 living descendants.

Of the many photographs shown by Bill Carrell during his presentation, there was one which he had taken himself which was truly mystifying. It was a photo taken on Sept. 11, 2011 showing a cruise lamp brought onto the *Mayflower* by Edward Doty. Mysteriously, there appears in the photo a "ghostly hand" which Bill did not see when he took the photo and for which he has no good explanation today. A copy of that picture, along with several others of the very many shown by Bill Carrell at the Spring Meeting can be seen on KSMD's website.

After Carrell's oral and visual presentation, Fay and Jerry Ford held a drawing for the various prizes they had obtained for this event. The five winners were as follows: Fran Salyers, the wife of KSMD member David Salyers; KSMD member Melinda Rawlings; KSMD member Peggy Kennedy; KSMD Governor Ben Talbott; and Sue Ann Cowgill, the guest of KSMD member Frances Barr.

Following the award of the prizes, Gov. Talbott thanked Bill and Ann Swinford for allowing us to use their gorgeous Idle Hour Country Club, and he thanked Fay and Jerry Ford for obtaining and arranging our table decorations, etc. and for providing the gifts and tickets for the drawing for prizes. Gov. Talbott also announced that our next Fall Meeting would be held on Saturday, November 2, 2019 at the Pendennis Club, and he thanked everyone for coming to this Spring Meeting.

The formal meeting then concluded with the Benediction by Martina Ockerman, but with some of the members simply staying a while longer to chat and socialize as they were invited by Gov. Talbott to do. Altogether it was a beautiful, sunny and fun-filled afternoon, and it was not until the very end when the last few people were leaving that it very slightly began to rain.

### **Donations for Meetinghouse**

As of the present date, KSMD members have contributed total donations to the First Plymouth Meetinghouse well in excess of the amount expected of our relatively small *Mayflower* society. The total amount raised

to date is \$15,752.00, and an additional amount totaling \$200.00 has been pledged by a KSMD member.

Following earlier disbursements to GSMD totaling over \$15,000.00, former Governor Lea Filson wrote Gov. Talbott a very complimentary letter thanking KSMD for the generous gifts of our members. Altogether these gifts exceed the totals of most GSMD societies, and of all those who are our size or smaller.

Despite the relative generosity of our members, GSMD has encouraged all the state societies to raise more funds to be used for the Meetinghouse restoration. Although GSMD reached its initial goal of \$3,000,000 for the exterior restoration more quickly than expected because of a single gift of \$2,618,000 from the City of Plymouth, nevertheless, to complete the restoration of the Meetinghouse interior, GSMD will still need to raise \$8,000,000 to \$10,000,000 more. While the GSMD will itself take on most of that burden, it is still requesting the assistance of the state societies in this effort.

So far, nearly a third of KSMD's members have contributed to the Meetinghouse restoration project. Those donors and the amounts of their gifts are listed as follows:

**Gifts of \$1,000 or more**

Gov. Ben J. Talbott, Jr.	\$2,025
Marie Talbott Dering	\$2,000
Evelyn Zolendek	\$1,500
Carroll Goslee	\$1,000
Ky. Society of Colonial Wars	\$1,000

**Gifts of \$500 or more**

National Society of Colonial Wars	\$816
Ann Derrick	\$500
Greg Langdon	\$500
Lisa Johnson	\$500
Martina Ockerman	\$500

**Gifts of 200 or more**

Betty Talbott Burton	\$475
William Swinford	\$400
John C. Talbott	\$350
David Salyers	\$350
Fay Charpentier Ford	\$300
William Carrell II	\$250
David Hampton	\$200

**Gifts of \$100 or more**

Sandra Talbott Butler	\$150
Peggy Kennedy	\$150
Jan Sheeting	\$125
Libby Talbott Berryman	\$120
Julie O'Hara Slayton	\$110
Patty Miller (friend)	\$100
John Ward IV	\$100
Lee Nelson	\$100
Joan Raymont	\$100
Helen Mains	\$100
Margaret Winter White	\$100
Gary Otte	\$100
James Hancock	\$100

Bobby Poindexter	\$100
Carol Vaughan	\$100

**Gifts of \$50 or more**

Ben J. Talbott III	\$80
Claudette Hahn	\$75
Michelle Morgan	\$75
James Burton	\$60
Lowry Watkins	\$55
Carita A. Warner	\$51
Howard Roberson	\$50
Natalie Burton	\$50
Stephanie Burton	\$50
Mary "Mavin" Martin	\$50
Edward Rogers, Jr.	\$50
Ann Clement	\$50
Sharon Clouse	\$50
Terry Collis	\$50
Ted Allen	\$50
Teresa Earley	\$50
David Allen	\$50
Flossie Crawford	\$50
Frances Barr	\$50
Antoinette "Toni" Beischel	\$50
Jill Brown	\$50
Susan Cowgill (friend)	\$50

**Other Gifts**

Phillip Anderson	\$30
Ruth Allen	\$25
John Allen	\$25
Wilma Beatty	\$25
Vickie Rich	\$25
Ashley Averell	\$25
George D. McNair	\$25
Charles Bond	\$25
Judith Moore	\$20
Terry Brown	\$10

In addition to these gifts already made, one member, William Swinford has pledged an additional gift of \$200 to be delivered in 2020.



*Evelyn Zolendek*

Gov. Talbott has repeatedly expressed his gratitude for all those who have contributed to the GSMD Meetinghouse project and he continues to encourage those members who have not yet contributed to please consider doing so. As stated by Gov. Talbott, "Even small gifts are an important act of participation and commitment and they display the great value which KSMD's members place on the Meetinghouse and the many educational functions which it will provide regarding the *Mayflower* voyage, the *Mayflower Compact*, the establishment of Plymouth Colony, and the vital role which the Pilgrims and their ancestors played in the founding of our country."