

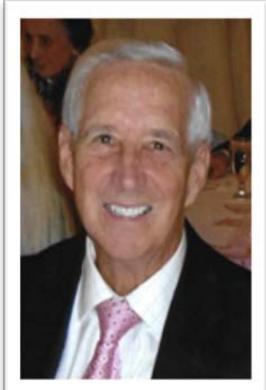
# THE KENTUCKY PILGRIM

## The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Kentucky

### Spring 2019 Issue

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#### Governor Talbott's Message



**Gov. Ben Talbott**

Next month, on Saturday, April 27, 2019 beginning at 11:45 a.m. KSMD will hold its annual Spring Meeting in Lexington, Kentucky at the beautiful Idle Hour Country Club. Everyone is invited to this fun and informative meeting which will include a delicious meal, prizes, and a fun and informative presentation by former Governor William Carrell II, titled "*Strangers Amongst Us: John Alden and His*

*Family*". So please come and enjoy a great afternoon.

Thanks in part to the generous donations from our members, GSMD has now raised approximately \$3,000,000 and has acquired the Plymouth Meetinghouse almost two years earlier than expected. These funds will be used to restore the exterior of the building and will allow the installation of the now repaired John Robinson windows into the church. Although the goal of acquiring this \$3,000,000 was achieved faster than expected, GSMD Former Governor General Lea Filson has informed us that at least \$8 to \$10 million more will have to be raised to complete the interior restoration and construction as planned.

As Governor of KSMD I wish to thank all of you who have contributed to our Meetinghouse fundraising effort and to encourage you to continue. Already KSMD has sent to GSMD more than \$13,425.00 and in the months ahead we will be sending even more. A special thanks is owed to our major contributors including Marie Talbott Dering (\$2,000), Evelyn Zolondek (\$1,500), Carroll Goslee (\$1,000), and the Society of Colonial Wars (\$1,000). In addition, special thanks are due to Martina Ockerman and to Elizabeth Talbott Berryman for their very diligent fundraising efforts and for their own generous contributions.

Finally, I wish to encourage all our members, if possible, to attend the upcoming annual Congress of GSMD to be held in Denver, Colorado beginning

Thursday, September 5, 2019 through September 8, 2019. This meeting will be held at the beautiful Grand Hyatt Hotel, and the Colorado Mayflower Society, which is sponsoring the Congress, has promised great tours and a fun time for all. Participants are encouraged to make hotel reservations as soon as possible to ensure room availability.

In addition, interested members are similarly encouraged to make their reservations with GSMD prior to August 2019, or earlier to ensure availability of desirable tours, etc. To make a reservation at the Denver Grand Hyatt Hotel, call AC (877) 803-7534. For questions directed to GSMD call AC (508) 746-3188 ext. 26.

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#### KSMD 2018 Fall Meeting

Nearly 60 members and guests of the Kentucky Society of Mayflower Descendants (KSMD) gathered together the day before Veteran's Day in downtown Louisville on Saturday, November 10, 2018 to celebrate their annual Fall Meeting and Thanksgiving lunch at the Pendennis Club. The event, chaired by Governor Ben J. Talbott, Jr., was held as always 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.

Following a warm welcome and opening remarks by Kentucky Governor Talbott, and reports first from Elder and Fundraising Committee Co-chair for the Meetinghouse restoration, Martina Ockerman, and then from First Deputy Governor and Historian, Anissa Davis, KSMD members were served a delicious Thanksgiving feast which included mushroom bisque soup, turkey and corn bread stuffing, corn pudding, country-style green beans, cranberry sauce, freshly baked rolls and cinnamon apple pie alamode. Members were then treated to a special oral presentation.

Our speaker this year was Kentucky's own Foster Ockerman, Jr., a lawyer, historian and *Mayflower* Guardsman who spoke on the topic of the *Mayflower* armor in a speech entitled, "*Protecting the Pilgrims: Origins, Arms & Armor.*" He is the husband of KSMD Elder Martina Ockerman. Both he and she have been

instrumental in helping the KSMD, as well as, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD). In fact, this past September, Foster was recognized for his part in the GSMD Color Guard at the GSMD Congress held in St. Charles, Illinois.



*Foster Ockerman*

Ockerman's presentation was about the origin, tactics and historical significance of how the armor protected the Pilgrims and began with the discussion about the Siege of the Dutch City of Leiden (1573 -1574). Here, there may have been a Leiden influence on the Pilgrims' Thanksgiving Day where the city later declared military reform of 1590. It is this event in which Thanksgiving traditions may have emerged. Beginning in 1590 Prince Maurice of Orange and Nassau, the Captain General of the Dutch forces, began efforts to reform the Dutch forces; thereby, standardizing their arms, armor and military tactics. Prince Maurice commissioned engraver/painter Jacob De Gheyn to develop an illustrated military training manual that provided instructions on how to handle pikes and muskets. Some lessons learned from Jamestown (the first permanent English settlement of 1607) were that too many men had died from arrows and that armor breastplates with proof test dent were needed to shield the Pilgrims.

Consequently, in 1611, Sir Thomas Dale, the Deputy Governor of the Virginia colony, ordered all men to wear plate armor. In 1620, the Pilgrims embarked for the New World in search of religious freedom. A painting entitled, "Embarkation of the Pilgrims" by Robert W. Weir circa 1843 demonstrated that the most important things to the Pilgrims were The Bible and their armor. To be protected, the Pilgrims embarked from the Dutch city of Leiden to America equipped with armor and The Bible. "Monday, the 13th of November (1620) sixteen men were set out with every man his musket, sword and corselet, under the conduct of Captain Miles Standish, unto whom was adjoined, for counsel and advice, William Bradford, Stephen Hopkins, and Edward Tilley." When the *Mayflower* landed at Plymouth in November 1620 there were 45 men of military age to serve in the Plymouth

militia. A few months later, only 23 men were fit for military service to defend Plymouth Plantation.

As late as 2016, the GSMD did not have a color guard unit. As explained by Ockerman, The *Mayflower* Guard was created at the 41st Congress at the GSMD in September 2017. This newly-created unit is a historical unit that demonstrates the arms and armor used by the passengers on the *Mayflower* who formed the first militia of Plymouth in 1620. The purpose of the *Mayflower* Guard is to be the bearer of the colors. The *Mayflower* Guard consists of four to five color-bearers who carry the United States National Flag, the Canadian National Flag, the European Union Flag and the GSMD Flag. If the event is hosted by a state society then the flag of that state may be carried, too. The GSMD meeting opened with the parade of the Color Guard and the presentation of the American Flag. And, one of the members of the Guard was Foster Ockerman. The typical Pilgrim armor weighed about 35 pounds and the musket weighed another 30 or so pounds. "If purchasing today, the full armor would cost more than \$1,700 and run some \$600 for a musket," according to Ockerman.

After the treacherous voyage across the Atlantic and the establishment of Plymouth Colony only about half of the 102 passengers survived the first year. Ockerman noted, "The dire living conditions and hardships endured by the passengers, including, their very limited space aboard the vessel itself, the extreme cold and violently stormy seas, and their lack of fresh fruits, vegetables, and other necessities made for a perilous journey."

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 for their special skills, but who did not share in the exact religious views of the more Puritan pilgrims. 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 and is widely viewed as the predecessor to our U.S. Constitution."

Names of some of the more well-known passengers of the *Mayflower* who signed the *Mayflower Compact* include John Alden, John Tilley, John Howland, William Brewster, William Bradford, George Soule, Edward Fuller, Stephen Hopkins, Henry Samson and Miles Standish, all of whom were ancestors of those attending the luncheon.

Following Foster Ockerman's very fine presentation, Governor Talbott awarded him an engraved julep cup. Talbott then also recognized Martina Ockerman as a recipient of a national award granted to her by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) for her unwavering support and service to the GSMD and the KSMD. Like the award first presented to former KY Governor Fay Charpentier-Ford last year, it places Martina on a special placard displayed during the GSMD Congress at the front of the main meeting room.

Before adjourning, a special thank-you was extended by Governor Talbott to all its members who had contributed and/or pledged donations to the GSMD First Parish Church and Meetinghouse restoration project.

It was also mentioned that the local Kentucky Chapter has reached an all-time record high of 200 members. Before adjourning, Talbott announced that the next KSMD Spring Meeting will be held on April 27, 2019 beginning at 11:45 am at Idle Hour Country Club in Lexington, Kentucky

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### **Fay's and Jerry's Special Prizes**

One of the nice treats of the KSMD Spring Meeting and the KSMD Fall Meeting are the nice prizes purchased and raffled off by Fay Charpentier-Ford and Jerry Ford near the end of our meetings. Some of the prizes from the last Spring Meeting included a blown glass bowl, a large lavender scented candle, and a decorative yard lantern.

This coming April 27<sup>th</sup> at our Spring Meeting, Fay and Jerry will once again raffle off their special prizes, and you will only have the chance to win one by attending our Spring Meeting at the Idle Hour Country Club. So please come and join in the fun.

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### **KSMD's New Members**

In the eleven months since our last Spring Meeting of 2018 the KSMD has added the following new members:

- (a) Peggy Sue (Oliver) Kennedy, a descendant of John Howland;
- (b) Lola Jane (Embree) Davidson, a descendant of Myles Standish;
- (c) Jamie Hannah Rosenstein, a descendant of John Alden;

- (d) Katherine Lee (Griggs) Bux, a descendant of Myles Standish;
- (e) Laura Francis Turner, a descendant of John Howland;
- (f) John Jacob Arenstam, a descendant of William Bradford;
- (g) George Danforth McNair, a descendant of John Alden;
- (h) Jennifer Lee (Schofield) Lindsey, a descendant of William White, and
- (i) David Michael Metz, a descendant of Henry Samson.

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### **GSMD's Upcoming General Board of Assistants Meeting**

This year's General Board of Assistants Meeting will be held at the Denver Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1750 Welton Street, in Denver Colorado, beginning Thursday, September 5, 2019, and continuing through Saturday, September 7, 2019.

The General Board meeting itself will be held on September 7, 2019 beginning at 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. to be followed that evening by the GSMD Banquet which will be held at the Denver Country Club, one of America's oldest and most exclusive private clubs. Activities at the club will include a cocktail reception, cash bar, beginning at 6:00 p.m., followed at 7:00 p.m. by the grand banquet dinner. Dinner will include soups, sliced beef tenderloin with mushroom sauce, seasoned vegetables, and fresh dinner rolls, etc.

The Colorado Society of Mayflower Descendants, which is hosting this General Board of Assistants Meeting, has planned wonderful tours and events to experience the best that Denver has to offer, and it encourages all KSMD members and guests to come and explore the sights and sounds of their remarkable "Mile High City". Hotel reservations for the Denver Grand Hyatt Hotel must be made by August 15, 2019 to obtain the special room rate for single and double occupancy of \$189.00 plus taxes, etc.

The Denver Grand Hyatt is easily accessible by flight into Denver International Airport which is 25 miles from the hotel. Transportation from the airport to Downtown Denver and back is best served by the Regional Transportation District (RTD) which takes about 37 minutes and costs only \$10.50 per person each way. From the airport, the train arrives at Union Station, a block away from the Denver Grand Hyatt. RTD trains run every 15 minutes, and despite six stops on the way, is the fastest, most convenient, and by far the least expensive method of transportation for only one or two persons. In comparison, Denver taxi charge a flat fee of over \$55.00 each way.

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### First Plymouth Meetinghouse

GSMD former Governor General Lea Filson has recently announced that because of the \$2.6 million gift from the City of Plymouth and the donations received from GSMD's state societies, GSMD has reached its \$3,000,000 fundraising goal well in advance of the three-years expected. As a consequence, it has now acquired title in trust of the First Plymouth Meetinghouse and will begin the external restoration of the structure for which the \$3,000,000 was raised.

With this restoration, GSMD will be able to soon re-install the famous and beautiful John Robinson Tiffany windows shown below expressing the moment when our ancestors left Delfshaven in the Netherlands. These windows had been removed from the building for cleaning and repair, and to protect them from damage due to the building's deterioration.

Although excited about the quick raising of the first \$3,000,000 needed for the exterior repair and restoration of the Meetinghouse, FGG Lea Filson noted that GSMD still needed another \$8 to \$10 million for completion of the interior restoration and construction.

Lea Filson also noted that while this has been the largest project in GSMD history, we can all be proud in passing such a wonderful legacy to future generations for use in educating the public about the *Mayflower* story and its importance to western civilization.

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### KSMD Now 75 Years Old

Having been originally established in 1943, KSMD has recently passed its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and has grown remarkably from that beginning when it had relatively few members.

Original members included Frank H. Bunch, Barlow W. Brooks, Robert Burvee, Theodore Morse Ritchie, Robert Ritchie, Betty Hutchinson Byer, Bessie Hutchinson Raibou, Catherine Lee Bridgers, and Mrs. Watson Pearce. All of these people were either original incorporators or original Board members.

All of us KSMD members today have been blessed by the earlier work of the aforesaid persons in establishing our Kentucky Society of Mayflower Descendants.

The GSMD itself was founded in 1897 and now numbers approximately 32,000 members located in every state of the U.S., and in Washington, D.C., in certain U.S. protectorates, and in both Canada and Europe.

Next year, 2020, KSMD will join GSMD and its other member societies in celebrating the 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower's* arrival in the New World. The celebration will include the sailing of the rebuilt *Mayflower II*, and the holding of GSMD's annual congress in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The lumber being used to rebuild the *Mayflower II* is special white oak acquired from the woodlands of the Berea College in Kentucky.

