

The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants Inc.

****Dispatches from Downunder****

June 2024 edition

best way to view entire document - View in a browser - click on link above



Governor's Message – Bill Elliott

In this newsletter, I would like to alert members of The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants Inc. that coming up there is a very important commemoration that will last for more than a decade. It will absorb a lot of the focus of ancestry groups such as the DAR and the SAR and the Mayflower Society over the coming years, both in the USA and beyond. This commemoration is:

America250 - The United States Semiquincentennial

The USA is about to begin celebrating 250 years of nationhood, and of course, the centre of this celebration will be on 4 July 2026. The focus of celebrations for the Mayflower Society will be the Congress in Plymouth in early September 2026, including the ringing of the Paul Revere bell in the meeting house.



There were no government-sponsored 50th anniversary observances on 4 July 1826, (coincidentally the day that founding fathers John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died) but in 1876 the government in the wake of the Civil War encouraged and organised celebrations centred on the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. In 1926 a Sesquicentennial Exposition, was held in Philadelphia and of course in 1976 there were extensive Bicentennial celebrations throughout the country.

AMERICA250 is offering special events at historic sites of the Revolutionary War. This decade-long celebration will encompass everything from the Boston Tea Party (Dec. 1773, celebrated this last December 2023 at the Boston Tea Party Museum with a re-enactment) to the signing of the Constitution in 1787. Leading the way in these celebrations are lineage groups the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) as well as many others.

In the State of Massachusetts, a group called REVOLUTION250 has been formed to co-ordinate many different events happening at historic sites in Massachusetts including Plymouth, MA. In Plymouth in the 1770's, Mayflower descendant Mercy Otis Warren (a Doty descendant) was writing her inspirational books to encourage independence.





The residents of Plymouth had rolled Plymouth Rock up to the centre of town in front of the Meetinghouse as a symbol of their liberty from England. They placed a Liberty Pole (a pole made from a tree branch) with a flag attached to the pole emblazoned with the words “Liberty or Death” into the base of the Plymouth Rock as a sign of their support of Independence.

Many other Mayflower descendants would end up participating in the War as well. Among the most notable would be John Adams (descendant of John Alden & Priscilla Mullins) who later became the first Vice Presidents and second President of the new United States, Robert Treat Paine (Stephen Hopkins descendant and Declaration signer) and Deborah Sampson (Standish, Alden, Mullins, and Bradford descendant) who famously dressed as a man in soldier’s uniform to fight on the field of battle.

Nearly all of our Mayflower ancestors produced descendants who fought in the war, although one family in particular, the descendants of Edward Winslow, chose to remain loyal to Britain and fight on the side of the English regulars. It has been said that without the original ideas of civic freedom that the Mayflower Pilgrims brought to the New World there might not have been a Revolution for Independence. From the earliest days of the Mayflower Compact, a form of civil government of elected officials by the people had been practiced at Plimoth Colony. Want to learn more about the connection? Our Mayflower Quarterly, mailed to your home, has already begun quarterly reports of how Mayflower descendants were involved in the American Revolution.

You can drop into a lecture by Jonathan Lane, Director of Revolution250, called “Families and Freedoms Connections between the Mayflower and the American Revolution” which you can view at your leisure on the GSMD website at themayflowersociety.org under:

- Lecture Series
- View on Demand Webinars
- 2024 Mayflower Society Virtual Programs

You can also tune in for an upcoming live lecture from Plymouth “Making the Presidency: John Adams and the Precedents that forged the Republic” with Dr. Lindsay Chervinsky, the Executive Director of the George Washington Presidential Library at the same website on 27 September at 9:00AM (Brisbane time).

Are you interested in how many descendants actually participated in the Revolution? You can visit a fabulous resource on our GSMD Website, themayflowersociety.org and under the heading “Explore Your Roots” where you will find the “Patriot to Passenger” Project — an ongoing collection of Revolutionary ancestors, both military and civilian, who have a Mayflower descendency.

Get ready to celebrate America’s 250th with your Mayflower cousins in the months and years ahead!

Bill Elliott - Governor & Deputy Governor General



To the left - Steve being installed as Washington State Governor 2009 by GSMD Governor General Judith Swan with grandson Jonathan Tyler Mullins, Jr. Member

Member profile

Name: Steven B. Arnold

Lives in: Ansonia, Connecticut

Married to: Judy Arnold

Position held in AUSMD: Charter Member, Assistant General, Deputy Governor General

Approved Mayflower Ancestors: John Howland, Elizabeth Tilley Howland, John Tilley, and Joan Hurst Tilley.



Other Memberships:

- * Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Washington
- * Europe Society of Mayflower Descendants
- * Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendants
- * Sons of the American Revolution
- * Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War
- * First Families of Massachusetts
- * First Families of Connecticut.

To the left - Judy and Steve attending Heritage Week 2018

About:

Graduated Sunnyside, WA High School. Attended Yakima Valley College, University of Illinois, Cornell University.

Employed at State of WA Dept. Of Agriculture for 32 years. After retirement, employed at the largest apple producing/packing company in the world, Evans Fruit Company.

Genealogy and my Mayflower Journey:

My first Mayflower Ancestor is John Howland.

Supplementals-Elizabeth Tilley Howland, John Tilley, Joan Hurst Tilley

Washington State: Colony Treasurer, Governor, State Recording Secretary, State Governor, Deputy Governor General

Connecticut: Board Member

Australia: Assistance General, Deputy Governor General

GSMD: Member at Large, Executive Committee

To the right- Judy and Steve attending GSMD meeting



To the left - Installation as Governor of Washington State 2017

Member profile

Name: Judith Arnold

Lives in: Ansonia, Connecticut

Married to: Steven B. Arnold

Position held in AUSMD: Charter Member; Assisant General

Approved Mayflower Ancestors: Richard Warren

Other Memberships:

- * Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Washington
- * Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil /war
- * New England Woman
- * Daughters of the Union 1861-1865
- * Daughters of the American Revolution

About:

Graduated from West Valley High School Yakima, Washington, Attended Yakima Valley College
Worked for a apple packing house for over 20 years. I had to stop packing because of carpel tunnel in my hands. Then went to work for our family Pet Store, Yakima Tropical fish and Pet Village. When we closed Pet Store went to work for Evans Fruit Company as Steves secretary.
In 2017 we moved to Ansonia, Connecticut.



Genealogy and my Mayflower Journey:

I became member of the Mayflower Society in 2007.
Board member - 2009-2017
Deputy Governor General - 2015-2019
Governor of Washington State - 2017

To the right - Judy attending D.A.R. event 2024

If you would like to share your Member Profile please complete the template, located in the link below, and forward to secretary@mayflowersociety.org.au

Member Profile template link

Improving a Membership Lineage

Andrew C Wells – Historian for the Australian Society

Congratulations on achieving proof of lineage to a Mayflower passenger!

Just because you're now a member doesn't mean the research ends. Many potential applications don't even get this far, winding up categorized as possible instead of at least probably proven. You should consider it fortunate that enough evidence remained through the centuries to achieve this desirable genealogical goal of proof. That's what separates claims of descendancy from certification. There's an overall standard applied to every generation you claimed: the General Society policy of "Proof of Same". This is where most of the unsuccessful applications falter. It means a line-carrier named for each generation must be shown to have been the same person born, who later had children. For example, someone born in a different geographical location from where they raised a family, is going to require evidence they are not different people. Each generation that relocates, makes the task of proving they are the same, more difficult. This is especially true for migrations from America to Australia. Unless the ancestor(s) who came to Australia are fairly recent, proof can be elusive.

Your successful application scan with membership endorsements, has each generation rated. The following notation is used in the left-hand margins of all applications:

- **C1** - Indicates the connection for the individual to their line-carrying parent is supported by primary sources that directly state relationships.
- **C2** - Indicates the connection for the individual to their line-carrying parent is supported by secondary sources that directly state relationships.
- **C** - Indicates the connection for the individual to their line-carrying parent is supported by circumstantial evidence.

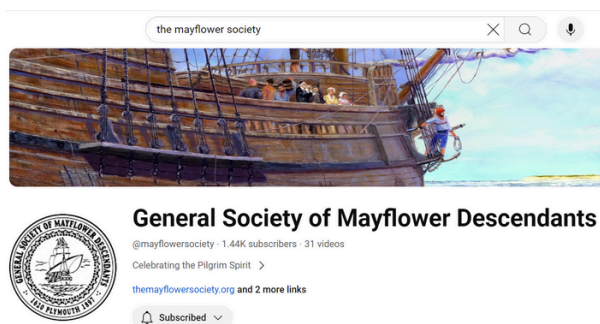
Even if all generations achieve the best possible rating of C1, there may still be additional research for a line-carrier's spouse or multiple marriages. Sometimes a rating is further qualified with marginal notes such as "weak", "very weak", or "single secondary source". There may also be notes for documents which should be available, that weren't provided at the time you applied. None of this affected your lineage being certified, or your membership. However, it can affect future memberships which rely on your approved lineage. If your application scan has marginal notes, these may need to be resolved before a child, grandchild, or even a cousin's eligibility is sought.

My own application was missing a marriage certificate for my line-carrier great-grandmother. I had only the marriage certificate for her second marriage, and other documents. The generation was still rated C1. The problem was not knowing where the first marriage took place. She and her husband are not found by federal census for 1910, and he died before 1920. In addition, her place of birth in Rhode Island is cited for three different locations. After becoming a member, I sought to fill in this and other holes. I knew there was an initial marriage because her later Massachusetts one shows she was widowed and was her second. Eventually I risked a paying for a "record not found", and had the town of Smithfield, RI where their daughter, my grandmother was raised, do a record search. They had quickly relocated to Boston after the marriage, and my

infant grandmother was sent back to Rhode Island to live with her maternal grandparents. Smithfield was the correct location, and in 2019 I was mailed the certificate. I never knew the marriage was 29 Oct 1903 until after becoming a member. This certificate was then used as one of several hundred documents, when applying for membership in another society.

Another example of where research might continue, are with generations supported only by secondary source evidence rated C2. Typically, these are earlier generations for which the only evidence provided was from published genealogies, local histories or biographies. Older publications may have exact dates and places for complete family events. Births or baptisms can be cited with or without references. The task here, is to figure out where the author sourced the information. Read the preface and acknowledgement pages to see if personal sources are credited, as a fair amount of genealogy was word-of-mouth in correspondence with living family members. That's not going to help, although it's also possible the author travelled to various townships and counties where original records were kept, and transcribed. These same documents could have been microfilmed and are simply waiting for an effort at reviewing. Try to determine if there was any damage or destruction of vital records, most likely due to fire, at the place where they were kept before taking time to go through reels of microfilm. Cemetery evidence could also have been sighted by the author, without source citation. If you can find one family member, often enough more of that family is together in the same resting place. The family of a line-carrier's spouse should not be overlooked for possible published genealogies. Finding additional secondary sources is another way to address any marginal comments such as "very weak" or "single secondary source".

Even if you have every possible scrap of evidence already collected or cited on your application scan, there are still siblings of each line carrier to consider. While this doesn't improve on your lineage, it can help cousins who are interested in applying. For each parent of the spouse of a line-carrier, it's recommended to try to determine those grandparents as well. The additional family names thus uncovered, can point toward additional possible qualifying Mayflower passengers. The idea here is to see if other lines can be developed to where they would fall within the first five or six generations from the landing in New England. If you can trace lines from some of the spouses back to the first half of the 18th century, it's then a relatively simple task to see if these people have Mayflower ancestors, thus opening the possibility of a supplemental ancestor for you!



Did you know the General Society of Mayflower Descendants have a YouTube channel?

You can locate it via -

<https://www.youtube.com/@mayflowersociety>

You will find many interesting videos including some recipes where you can recreate the food of the Pilgrims.

**Start planning on attending our
AUSMD Annual AGM**

Will be held on 12 October 2024 in

The Courtyard Room,

at the Customs House Hotel, 161 Nelson Place,
Williamstown, Victoria.

Guest speaker during lunch

**Cost for AGM including morning tea and 2
course**

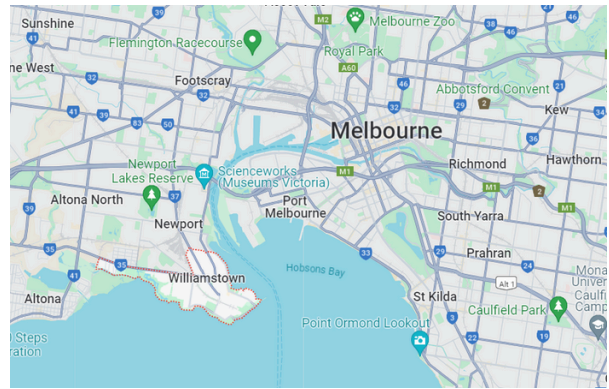
Gourmet lunch is \$85.00.

Menu will be provided at a later date.

Additional activities (currently being planned) for
Friday and Sunday till lunchtime (additional cost),
may include:

- tour of [The National Gallery of Victoria](#)
- walk around historical Williamstown
- Ferry ride back to Melbourne Southbank Promenade
 - Casual Dinner at Southbank
 - Casual Dinner in Williamstown

Customs House Hotel link



Recently our Member At Large (MAL) -
Beth Lambright shared her latest
newsletter for Western Society & Australia
Governors

To read her newsletter, click on the below link -

**Spring 2024 Newsletter -
Member at Large (West) -
The General Society of
Mayflower Descendants**

Juniors membership news

Don't forget to check out all the resources on our [AUSMD website](#)
or through the [General Society of Mayflower Descendants](#)

Members celebrations this quarter

Birthdays

Terrance Patterson - 4th April
Philip Koether - 7th April
Margaret Patterson - 11th April
Thomas Clynes - 11th April
Warren Magee - 12th April
Marty Beerman - 23rd April
Judy Arnold - 24th April
Susan Abanor - 24th April
Peggy Marsh - 30th April
Marion Isham - 1st May
Deborah Domain - 15th May
Pierce Holstrom - 19th May
Jamie Brophy - 4th June
Evangeline Isham - 8th June
Keith Quimbach - 13th June
Matilda Lea - 26th June
Katherine McGlinchy - 29th June
Lily Granger - 29th June
Violet Granger - 29th June



Anniversaries

Judy and Steve Arnold
Marion and Thomas Clynes
Vicki and Graham Andrews
Genevieve and Keith Quimbach
Jeanette and Andrew Wells
Philip Koether and Marc Curyer
congratulations to all!





Quarterly Membership Overview as at 30 June 2024

Total Membership	58		
Regular Members:	58	Australian Residents	34
Associate Members:	17	USA Residents:	21
Junior Members:	9	Overseas Residents:	3

Members by Family Groups			
Isaac Allerton	1	Priscilla Mullins	1
John <u>Billington</u>	2	Thomas Rogers	3
William Bradford	4	David Sampson	1
William Brewster	3	George Soule	9
James Chilton	2	Myles Standish	1
Edward Fuller	3	Richard Warren	10
Stephen Hopkins	3	William White	2
John Howland	13		

Welcome to New Members for 2nd quarter 2024

Nil





The Australian Society of Mayflower
Descendants, Inc.

governor@mayflowersociety.org.au

<https://www.mayflowersociety.org.au/>

Proudly Affiliated with:

- Federation of Australian Historical Societies - <https://www.history.org.au/>
- History Queensland - <https://www.historyqueensland.org.au/>
- The Royal Historical Society of Queensland - <https://www.queenslandhistory.org/>

please check out their websites for information and news on upcoming events.

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