In an age where we are bombarded with information on all fronts, personal history is disappearing at an alarming rate. Photographs are digitized and kept on electronic devices that sadly often become victims of computer crashes, lost phones and forgotten passwords. Letters have been replaced by emails and text messages. When was the last time you received a hand-written, newsy letter? It was Winston Churchill who once said, “History is written by the victors.” But I would add that in our day and age, history is written simply by the writers; writers, bloggers or anyone else who takes the time to capture for posterity their observations and interpretations of the meaningful events of life.

Imagine where you and I would be today if William Bradford had not sat down and penned his recollection of people and events central to the pilgrim’s story. It is because of his collection of letters that we are able to piece together a more complete and accurate understanding of the events and motivations of our pilgrim ancestors and their stories. As members of a genealogical society dedicated to remembering and honoring the legacy of our forefathers, we would do well to become active caretakers of our own personal family history for those who come after us.

May I humbly suggest that the time you invest now to document and preserve the unique family history that is yours will indeed someday become a cherished family gift that grows in value from generation to generation. Document all the history you can find, even if your younger family members don’t appear to be interested at the moment. Start with the little things. Think of the treasure trove of irreplaceable family history you would possess if every family photo had written on the back of it the names, date, and occasion related to that picture. What a rich family story could be told and made available for others. And make no mistake, everyone has a story worth telling! Record or capture in writing and video the personal accounts and details of significant social, cultural and family events from those family members who were there and lived it. Stories of childhood, significant life events, family tales, and personal anecdotes told at family get-togethers (more than just names and dates, births and deaths) make for a rich family narrative that becomes priceless to future generations wishing to understand their personal connection to the past. I can think of no greater gift to pass along to your heirs than a connection to the careful examination and reflection of your life and times. Perhaps your efforts may end up as the source documents that inform future generations of the history of our day.

Spring is a time of new life and fresh beginnings as we pack away the sweaters and long pants of winter and unearth the shorts and tee shirts of summer. In the midst of our rummaging is when we are most apt to stumble across an old photo, keepsake or remnant from our past. And it is in these simple reminders of days gone by where each of our personal stories are written and future legacies are created.

Greetings All!

Save the Date!

Spring Reception

Sunday, May 21, 2 - 4 p.m.

Historic Houses of Odessa and Gardens
With Spring right around the corner, I hope you make plans now to attend the Spring Reception at the Historic Houses of Odessa on Sunday, May 21st. We have made special arrangements with the Historic Odessa Foundation to offer you a choice of 3 different tours that best suits your interests, time and mobility requirements.

We will all gather together at the Odessa Bank, 201 Main St., at 2 p.m. for light refreshments and to receive updates on the latest news and “happenings” within the SMDD and GSMD. At 2:30 p.m. you will follow the docent for your particular tour. By having these tour options available, we will need to know your tour preference in advance. Please communicate your tour selection and number of attendees at your first convenience to Lois Schlegel at (302) 239-4125 or lbspsu62@yahoo.com or by mailing in the form on the last page. Deadline for tour reservations is Saturday, May 13th! I hope to see you there!

**TOUR OPTIONS**

**Option #1 - The Corbit-Sharp House Tour – 40 Minutes**

The Corbit-Sharp House c. 1774, a National Historic Landmark, is a handsome example of the Philadelphia-Georgian style. Builder William Corbit, the town’s leading citizen, operated a tannery on the Appoquinimink Creek. This house remained in the Corbit family until 1938, when H. Rodney Sharp acquired it. Sharp restored the house as well as several other historically significant buildings in the town and is generally considered responsible for the first efforts at historic preservation in Odessa. Today the Corbit-Sharp House is furnished according to an 1818 inventory of household furnishings and reflects the region’s lifestyle in the late 18th century.

**Option #2 - The Corbit-Sharp House, Collins-Sharp House and Wilson Warner House Tours – 90 Minutes.**

In addition to the Corbit-Sharp House above, this tour also includes two other sites along with the grounds and gardens. The Collins-Sharp House c.1700, one of Delaware’s oldest structures, is a center for educational programming. Hearth-cooking demonstrations feature documented recipes from the late 18th- and early 19th-centuries. The Collins-Sharp House garden is planted with heirloom plants typically used in the 18th century for culinary, medicinal and decorative use.

The Wilson-Warner House c. 1769 was constructed in the Delaware-Georgian style to affirm David Wilson’s status as the town’s most prosperous merchant. Today the house is furnished according to the “List of Sale” recorded in the family bankruptcy in 1829. Local patron H. Rodney Sharp restored this and other buildings in Odessa in the middle of the last century, helping to preserve the community’s unique legacy.

**Option #3 - The Family Tour – 90 Minutes**

Explore the past together, as a family! All children in the group will be given a cap and a haversack containing a spyglass, slate and slate pencil, fire starter kit, pocket watch, and a Bilbo catcher. In addition, activities include age appropriate school lesson, a copy of “Rules for Behavior in Company,” and a Corbit-Sharp House scavenger hunt.

As with our traditional tours, guides begin by giving an orientation to the town and its early history. Geography plays a large role in this introduction and children enjoy orienting themselves with their compass and spyglass.
Families are instructed on the kind of behavior that would have been expected of them in the 18th century. Use the “Rules for Behavior in Company” from The School of Manners printed in London in 1701 as a basis – and come away with a great appreciation for how times have changed.

**Directions**

The Historic Houses of Odessa are located on Main Street in Odessa, Delaware. We are situated 23 miles south of Wilmington just east of Route 13 and 24 miles north of Dover.

**Address for GPS:**

201 Main Street, Odessa, DE 19730

**From Philadelphia and the North:**

Take I-95 South into Delaware. If you are coming from New York City, you will enter Delaware going over the I-295 Delaware Memorial Bridge. Continue on I-95 South towards Baltimore. Exit at 4-A (sign to Christiana Mall) and follow signs to Route 1 South. Stay on Route 1 going over the bridge with the yellow arches and continue through the tollbooth ($1.00). Remain on Route 1 South until Route 299 (Middletown/Odessa Exit). Take a left onto Rte. 299 towards Odessa. Continue through three traffic lights. Park on Main Street or Second Street near the Bank.

**From Baltimore and the South:**

Take I-95 North to Delaware state line. About 1 mile after tollbooth, exit onto Rt. 896 South; continue on Route 896 for 10 miles to a traffic light where the road becomes Rt. 301/71. (Do not turn left where sign points 896 to Rt. 13.) Continue through the traffic light for 3 miles to the next light. Immediately after Dunkin Donuts bear to the left. Go left across railroad tracks until you reach the third traffic light in the center of town. Turn left onto Main Street, Route 299 East towards Odessa. Park on Main Street or Second Street near the Bank.

**41ST GENERAL CONGRESS**

*by Noel Kuhrt*

The 41st Triennial General Congress will be held September 8-13, 2017 in Plymouth, MA. Opening ceremonies will occur on Sunday the 10th at the First Parish Church. There will be two days of meetings, a banquet and family meetings for Allerton, Doty, Fuller, Hopkins, Howland, Rodgers, Warren and White descendants. Tours include the Cape to Provincetown; Newport, RI; Boston, Lexington and Concord; and a whale watch. Delaware is entitled to 4 delegates plus our General Officers Robert Hanson and Noel Kuhrt. Please know any member and their guests are welcome. Those wishing to represent Delaware as voting delegates must first inform Governor David M. Bradford.

Be advised those planning to attend should obtain lodging and registration as soon as possible, since both lodging and tours are limited.

Our members received Delaware co-sponsorship for the US House and Senate Bills to have the US Mint issue a series of commemorative coins recognizing the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage. Unfortunately those Bills expired at the end of 2016 when the 114th Congress adjourned. New Bills with different numbers have not yet been introduced to the 115th Congress. When we have the new House and Senate Bill numbers, we will inform you and ask that you again request Senator Carper and Senator Coons to co-sponsor the Senate Bill and our new Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester to co-sponsor the House Bill. Our members living in other states can get contact details for their Rep at www.house.gov and enter your zip-code and Senators at www.senate.gov and enter your state. If these become law, the sale of coins will result in revenue benefiting the Mayflower Society at no cost to the taxpayer. GSMD will use its share to educate the public how Pilgrims helped shape western civilization.

The GSMD Executive Committee has budgeted $100,000 for a permanent commemorative monument for the 400th anniversary and asked the 2020 Committee for a recommendation. Their recommendation is an artistic representation of William Bradford writing in his diary, “Of Plymouth Plantation” the quote, “as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many, yea in some part to our whole nation.” Perhaps a lit candle in the form of an eternal flame could be part of the monument. As to location, it might be placed in our Society Garden to draw visitors to our Society House or perhaps in front of the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse, i.e. The First Parish Church. The Executive Committee supports this recommendation, will decide by June, 2017 and expects the 41st General Congress to make the final decision.

As to the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse, a sub committee of the Executive Committee continues meeting with The First Parish Church about this donation. It is still a work in progress and not complete. Updates will be announced as progress continues.
Genealogy Seminar Attracts Many Family Researchers to Dover

On March 4th, 2017, at the Delaware Public Archives in Dover, award-winning genealogical researcher, writer, editor and teacher Dr. Thomas W. Jones presented an interesting and informative seminar titled, “Genealogy – Beyond Bare Bones, Building Your Skills.” Dr. Jones is a recognized expert in the field of genealogical research and holds distinctions as a Fellow in both the American Society of Genealogists (ASG) and National Genealogical Society (NGS).

The free and open-to-the-public genealogical conference was sponsored by the Friends of the Delaware Archives (FODA) and included four plenary sessions led by Dr. Jones:

- Proved? Five Ways to Prove Who Your Ancestor Was
- Planning Efficient and Effective Research: An Interactive Case Study
- Can a Complex Research Problem Be Solved Solely Online?
- Inferential Genealogy: Deducing Ancestor’s Identities Indirectly

Nearly 120 people from NJ, PA, DE and MD attended the day-long conference, learning many important time and money saving tips for locating and verifying difficult pieces to any genealogical puzzle. Attendees also learned, through case studies and examples, how to think through and ask questions that help guide their next best step that uncover and verify information and facts they already possess.

SMDD Librarian Ann Happoldt arranged with conference sponsors to set up a Mayflower Society informational table from 8:30-4:30 P.M. in the Archives lobby to introduce these genealogically-interested learners to our organization while publicizing and promoting our society and its goals. Gov. Bradford distributed SMDD brochures and assorted Pilgrim literature to conference attendees which included surnames of Mayflower passengers. At breaks and throughout the day, Mr. Bradford engaged many attendees who had questions about the Mayflower Society, membership qualifications and links to pilgrim resources and contacts. Others simply enjoyed sharing the status of their personal quest to establish recognized “proof” of their family links to their suspected Pilgrim heritage. It was a wonderful day of learning and sharing Mayflower and genealogical knowledge.

Along with all manner of genealogical records, the Delaware Public Archives offers research assistance and FREE access to Ancestry.com. The Archives’ Research Room is open M-F, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information contact Tom Summers (302) 744-5047, Thomas.summers@state.de.us or check the Archives website at http://archives.delaware.gov.
This issue begins a series of short biographies of each of our Pilgrim fathers who have proven descendents. Credit is given to the Historian of the Arizona Society who compiled these biographies in the 1980s. Please enjoy learning about these brave men whose combined efforts and dedication to a new way of life left an indelible mark on the world.

**JOHN ALDEN**

John Alden was born in England about 1599, but nothing has been conclusively established considering his ancestry or exact location of birth. He was a cooper by trade and hired on as a “Mayflower” crew member in that capacity at Southampton. The conditions of employment permitted him to either remain in America or return as a crew member to England. He chose the former course of action after arrival in the New World. He was one of the forty one signers of the Mayflower Compact.

On 12 May 1622 John Alden married Priscilla Mullins. Her parents had died in the general sickness of that first winter in Plymouth.

About 1632 they moved to nearby Duxbury. In 1653 they moved into a second house which is still standing (105 Alden Street) and maintained by the Alden Kindred of America, Inc. An excavation in 1960 revealed the location of the original house, about 300 yards away.

John Alden served in many public service capacities over the years, including assistant to the Governor and twice as Deputy Governor.

**JAMES CHILTON**

James Chilton was born before 1563 in Canterbury, Kent, England, the son of Lyonell Chilton. James became a tailor. He married before 1587 and had 10 children. His wife’s name was possibly Susanna Furner.

It is believed that this family was part of the Pilgrim group that resided in Leyden, Holland. However, of this family, only James, his wife, and youngest daughter, Mary, came to America on the “Mayflower”. The eldest daughter, Isabella, came to Plymouth about 1629 with her husband, Roger Chandler. The youngest daughter, Mary, was the first lady to come ashore from the “Mayflower”. Her granddaughter, Ann Winslow, at age 92 told her own grandson in 1769 that Mary’s “curiosity of being first on the American Strand prompted her, like a young heroine, to leap out of the boat and wade ashore. She was a twelve year old at the time.”

James Chilton was one of the 41 signers of the Mayflower Compact, but he died on 18 December 1620 while the ship was still anchored off Cape Cod. His wife died sometime after 21 January 1621 during the general sickness which occurred that winter.

Descent from James Chilton has been proven through only his two daughters, Isabella and Mary.

**STEPHEN HOPKINS**

Stephen Hopkins was born at Wortley, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, England. As a young man, a weaver, he married his first wife, Constance Dudley. They had three children: Constance, William, and Giles.

In 1608 the family moved to London. Stephen decided to go to Jamestown, Virginia to start a new life for himself and, later, for his family. Three ships left England, but two sank in a hurricane. The third, on which Stephen sailed, became stuck on a coral reef off Bermuda. The passengers went ashore and in the following nine and half months built two smaller ships to continue the trip to Jamestown. After a few months in Jamestown, Stephen returned to England to find his wife, baby, and son, William, had died. Stephen moved to London and became a merchant.

In the spring of 1618 Stephen married his second wife, Elizabeth Fisher. They had one daughter, Damaris. A son, Oceanus, was born on the “Mayflower” before landing.
On Tuesday, Nov. 22nd, two days before our national celebration of Thanksgivings, SMDD Governor David Bradford had the privilege of visiting students in Mr. Tom Gear’s Life Skills, Math and Social Studies class at Delcastle High School. Gov. Bradford shared with approximately 25 students and staff the first-hand accounts of Governor William Bradford and his experiences of life in England, Holland and years as founder and leader of the men and women of Plymouth Colony. This was the second year that Gov. Bradford has met with Mr. Gear’s students to help them personally relate to and understand the significance of the pilgrim experience to them and our nation.

A couple months later, on February 2, 2017, Governor Bradford paid a visit to two 9th grade social studies classes taught by Mrs. Becky Silva at Tristate Christian Academy in Elkton, Maryland. Gov. Bradford again shared, in ancestor William Bradford’s own words, a number of important events that had significant effects on our lives and nation today. The students study of the Pilgrims in advance of the governor’s visit was quite impressive as evidenced by the quality of their comments and questions. Along with the oft-asked questions about Pilgrim food, clothes and recreations, the students challenged Gov. Bradford with thoughtful queries about the Pilgrim’s relationships with different Indian tribes and among the Pilgrims themselves. Bradford answered questions like, “What did you (Gov. Wm. Bradford) think of the Indians? How did people treat each other on the Mayflower and treat you as their leader?” And “What was your biggest challenge as governor?” Great questions quickly led to conversation about the significance of events, decisions and actions of both Pilgrim and Indian leaders. One (somewhat less serious-minded but amusing) question posed to the governor was, “Do you profit from being a descendent?” to which I was compelled to reply, “Maybe not in a financial sense, but ‘yes,’ absolutely in a historical sense!” As do we all!

Henry Samson married Ann Plummer at Plymouth on 6 February 1635. The couple moved to nearby Duxbury where he became a person of standing in the community. Henry died 24 December 1684 at Duxbury. His will and inventory of his estate are on record at Plymouth.

Henry Samson and Ann Plummer had nine children, but descent has been proven through only seven of them: Stephen, James, Caleb, Elizabeth, Hannah, Dorcas, and a daughter (name unknown) who married John Hanmer.
New Members

James P. Moore

James P. Moore descends from Richard Warren. Born and raised in Northern New York State, he is a graduate of the State University of New York Maritime College with a degree in Marine Engineering and a commission in the U.S. Navy. A retired nuclear engineer, he is enjoying retirement in Delaware, and devotes his time to researching and writing family genealogies. It was while researching one of the family lines that he discovered he is a Mayflower descendant. He is also a descendant of Roger Sherman, a signer of the Declaration of Independence from Connecticut, and is a member of the Sons of The American Revolution and of the Descendants of The Signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Completed Voyages

Nancy Gardner Burnham Henderer
Died February 13, 2017
Gen # 47771; DE # 202
Descended 10th from John Alden

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Delaware 2017

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Deputy Governor
Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Treasurer
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General Society

Deputy Governor General
Assistant General

Noel H. Kuhrt, Jr.
Robert J. Hanson, Jr.
You’re Invited!
Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Delaware

Spring Reception

You’re Invited!
Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Delaware

Historic Houses of Odessa and Gardens
201 Main Street,
Odessa, Delaware 19730
Sunday, May 21, 2017 | 3 – 5 p.m.

Traveling Directions:
The Historic Houses of Odessa are located on Main Street in Odessa, Delaware. They are situated 23 miles south of Wilmington just east of Route 13 and 24 miles north of Dover.

Please respond to by Saturday, May 13, 2017

Lois B. Schlegel
114 Horseshoe Road, Newark, DE 19711-2413
(302) 239-4125 | lbspsu62@yahoo.com  (*Note first alpha is lower case "L")

I (we) will attend the Mayflower Spring Reception on May 21, 2017

Member ____________________________________________________________

Spouse (Trailing Arbutus, first name) __________________________________________

Other Guest(s) _______________________________________________________

Junior Member(s) ______________________________________________________

Tour Option (See page 2 for details. Please check one and indicate the number attending.)


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