

South Dakota Mayflower Society



NEWSLETTER



September 2025

OFFICERS

Governor: Randy Olivier
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Deputy Governor:
Casey Peterson
casey@caseypeterson.com

Secretary: Tammy Bourne
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Treasurer: Cynthia Nelson
cynthianelson97@gmail.com

Historian: Robin Fansler
rdfansler@gmail.com

GREETINGS FROM YOUR GOVERNOR

In Western South Dakota, we have green fields in late August and our fruit trees and garden plants are all thriving. With the oddities from around the world, we are grateful for our daily bread and healthy crops. Putting our garden beds closer to our kitchen has been a really smart improvement and we hope to continue to find the highest and best use of our time and efforts.

A time ago, my grandmother (Birdie Standish) and my mother (Sandra Allen) would share great stories passed down from prior generations and it was such an integral part of my childhood – knowing. We hit all of the ancestral gravesites at least once a year and we knew who these people were because of the stories. The experience was fantastic. Sharing the story forward was also almost expected...

While some could argue that technology, AI, and social media sites have had a negative impact on our historical norms and values, others might argue that advances in technology have made some things better too. How did people historically preserve the stories? Verbally. Hieroglyphs. Paper. Camera. Audio. Video...

Fast forward to 2025. Storyworth is an online company that helps you capture your story into a book and where they feel “everyone has a story worth sharing.” They allow you to “easily capture stories through voice recordings or email. Then, preserve them with unlimited color photos in a beautiful keepsake book.” And guess what? Storyworth is now offering a 15% discount to Mayflower Society members if you access their site through the General Society membership benefits tab. A quick preview at www.storyworth.com. I am going to try it and will let you know how it feels at our October 4, 2025 annual meeting at the Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota!

Randy Olivier

Annual Meeting

Make plans now to attend this year's annual meeting!
The meeting will be held Saturday, October 4, 9:00 a.m.:

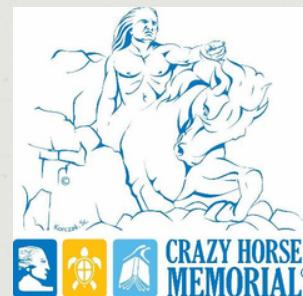
Crazy Horse Memorial
12151 Avenue of the Chiefs
Crazy Horse, South Dakota 57730

(Print this page for Dash ID - required for FREE PARK ENTRY!)

Trips to Crazy Horse Mountain are Planned!

Annual Meeting Cost: \$30 per person (includes noon meal)
RSVP to Cynthia Nelson by text or email:
(605) 890-1167; cynthianelson97@gmail.com

The South Dakota Mayflower Society
October 4, 2025



Waived Admission with Dash ID
(Ticket Office - Event # E33969AA)

Mayflower Mentions by Marti Bobertz

Luckily for me, living where I do in Plymouth MA, lots of Mayflower Mentions and Pilgrim Progresses come across my horizon on a daily basis. For you, the readers, this newsletter may be the majority of your attention to your 1620 ancestry. It is only fair that I give the editor a boost and tell you about some of the latest.

Books to read: *Mayflower Day by Day*, compiled by W Becket Soule, came as a gift to me. While I have not read all 482 pages yet, I have been impressed with the methodology of the book. There is a write up for every day of the journey from Jul 1620 to Dec 1621. Each is an "easy read". There are quotes from the primary sources, *Of Plimmoth Plantation* and *Mourt's Relation*. Interspersed throughout, are paragraphs that reflect on the life and times and the known facts about the travelers done by contemporary authors. Back in the day, this book surely would have been among those in my grandmother's "sitting room".

Thursday, 18 March [1620]/21 At anchor in harbour

Rough easterly weather.

We have seen John Carver several times in the past six months, so perhaps now is a good time to look at him more closely. John was born at Great Bealings, Suffolk in 1581, so he was just shy of 40 on this voyage....

Videos to Watch: <https://beyond1620.org/>

Two great teachers have come together to put together a series of four videos that I had the privilege of watching along with other descendants over the winter. To quote from their website:

...immerse yourself in the lives of your 17th-century ancestors, to understand the whole of the story – from the English Reformation through to the establishment of Plimoth Plantation. Now accessible to descendants and the public through our website, www.Beyond1621.org, Pilgrim 101® provides a comprehensive journey into our early history using timelines, maps, recorded lessons, and other materials to enhance your learning...

Activities Abound: If you are ever able to come to Plymouth, check for the activities that might be available when you can come. Even from home, a lot of these are posted on Facebook or provide a zoom link, so you can see what goes on and do some learning...

In August, the first four Friday's at 6 pm is the Pilgrim Progress. We march, in costume, to the beat of a drum to the top of Burial Hill where a short service and singing psalms from the Ainsworth psalter happens. It is quite often recorded and played on the Pilgrim Progress Facebook page. See if you can find me in costume!

On Friday, August 8th, *Mayflower II* will be celebrating a week of sea trials and her renewed United States Coast Guard

certification with a day sail in Cape Cod Bay. I'm sure hoping to capture some photos, but there will be lots posted on Facebook. Keep an eye out.

Connect with Cousins: There are many other ways to learn more about your ancestor and find your cousins. I have recently helped put together a one stop shop to find the family societies.

Pilgrim Family Societies:

Your link to Family Societies whose heritage connects back to Mayflower passengers and other significant families that were part of early Plymouth Colony.

PilgrimFamilySocieties.org provides easy links to make this your *all-in-one-place* source. The website also links to specific benefits that the different family societies may sponsor, such as scholarships, tours, educational opportunities, or shopping. There is a calendar page for meeting schedules that will be kept updated, especially as the time approaches for many meetings and events in 2026.

To view the PFS website, click on the above URL address or use this QR code.



The Alden Kindred meets the first weekend in August. They make it available on zoom. This year, Jonathan Lane will be speaking on the Aldens in the Revolution.

Watch Facebook on The Warren Cousins for the zoom meeting invitation on September 28th. Richard Pickering of Plimoth Patuxet will be the featured speaker.

For those of you who are Doty descendants, I finally took a picture of a marker I'd driven by at least once a week for the last 10 years but never knew what it said. It is on the corner of Cherry and Court St in North Plymouth:



**WELCOME
ABOARD!**

In Memorium

Marcia Heinje , Elected to State Society: 20 Feb 2024, Descendant of: John Howland
Caroline Davis , Elected to State Society: 3 Sept 2024, Descendant of: Richard Warren
Barbara Luther , Elected to State Society: 3 Dec 2024, Descendant of: Myles Standish
David Drey , Elected to State Society: 3 Jan 2025, Descendant of: John Alden
Joanne McPherson , Elected to State Society: 28 Jan 2025, Descendant of: Thomas Rogers
ReNae Hays , Elected to State Society: 18 Feb 2025, Descendant of: William Bradford
Dolores H Helma , Elected to State Society: 25 Feb 2025, Descendant of: Francis Cooke
Jennifer Cruz , Elected to State Society: 13 Jun 2025, Descendant of: Myles Standish
Kathryn Van Huisstede , Elected to State Society: 1 Jul 2025, Descendant of: Francis Cooke
Karlee Archer , Elected to State Society: 5 Aug 2025, Descendant of: John Alden
Andrew Nelson , Elected to State Society: 8 Aug 2025, Descendant of: Myles Standish



Thomas Cline
B: 20 Feb 1947
D: 11 Mar 2022
Elected to Society: 18 Aug 2015
Descendant of: Issac Allerton



Mary Jean Schoessler
B: 17 Oct 1934
D: 26 Jan 2024
Elected to Society: 12 Sept 1977
Descendant of: Samuel Fuller



Priscilla Jean Broms
B: 28 Nov 1946
D: 19 Feb 2024
Elected to Society: 18 Nov 1975
Descendant of: Stephen Hopkins



William David Walseth
B: 4 Sep 1947
D: 31 Oct 2023
Elected to Society: 23 Sep 2000
Descendant of: John Howland, Joan Hurst Tilley, Edward Fuller, John Tilley



Judith C. Scully
B: 8 Aug 1948
D: 24 Nov 2016
Elected to Society: 5 Mar 2004
Descendant of: John Howland



Frank Fay Feltis
B: 31 Jul 1948
D: 2 Sep 2024
Elected to Society: 27 Oct 2020
Descendant of: Stephen Hopkins



Dr. Keith T. Johnson
B: 15 Nov 1930
D: 23 Jan 2025
Elected to Society: 10 May 1972
Descendant of: Richard Warren



Dean D. Mann
B: 3 April 1932
D: 31 July 2024
Elected to Society: 12 Mar 2013
Descendant of: William Bradford



Gregory Sims
B: 8 Feb 1967
D: 26 Jan 2024
Elected to Society: 10 May 2022
Descendant of: Richard Warren



Theodore C. Mazur
B: 1 Jul 1946
D: 14 Aug 2024
Elected to Society: 14 Mar 1992
Descendant of: William White



Dianne A. Rodrigue
B: 20 Oct 1965
D: 18 Jun 2023
Elected to Society: 11 Feb 2000
Descendant of: William White



Bebe Jensen
B: 10 Aug 1925
D: 13 Aug 2024
Elected to Society: 15 Sep 2009
Descendant of: William Bradford



Catherine Ann Hustead Roe
B: 8 Jul 1939
D: 9 Jul 2023
Elected to Society: 30 Aug 1972
Descendant of: Stephen Hopkins



Orval Knodel
B: 11 Jun 1926
D: 28 Jun 2025
Elected to Society: 23 Jun 2009
Descendant of: Francis Cooke

The Mayflower Society Silent Auction

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants is excited to announce its first official Silent Auction!

All proceeds raised during this auction will be used to support the restoration and renovation of the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse.

The auction will run from September 1st through October 1st.

The auction features a wide variety of unique and meaningful items generously donated by Mayflower Descendants' Member Societies. Many of the societies selected items that reflect the spirit and culture of their home states and/or countries.

Additional Info:

-Bidding begins at 8am EST on Monday, September 1st.

-Each item has a Starting Bid Price, a Fair Market Value and a Bid Increment.

-When bidding on an item, please choose to bid ANONYMOUSLY, as we would like to keep this a SILENT AUCTION. If you forget to select "anonymous bidder," we can manually adjust to make sure all bidders are anonymous.

-Bidding closes at 8pm EST on Wednesday, October 1st.

If you are the winning bidder, you will be sent an invoice and automatically charged for the amount you bid, using the bank or credit card information you provided when signing up.

If you have any further questions please email: epayson@themayflowersociety.org

Copy and paste this link for more info about the Silent Auction:

<https://themayflowersociety.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7c0c6ac341f9bd7fd311526aa&id=cfeea384b2&e=ef3a3eb6f1>

The Mayflower Descendants in the State of South Dakota have donated a "Lakota Star Quilt". Lakota star quilts are highly valued cultural symbols gifted at significant life events, representing honor, respect, and connection to the "star nation" or ancestors. Adopted during the reservation era as a gift-giving tradition when buffalo hides became scarce, these eight-pointed star designs replace the traditional star-patterned buffalo robes and are given for births, graduations, marriages, and to honor prominent individuals. Receiving a star quilt is a profound gesture, symbolizing protection and the warmth of the community, while the quilts themselves are a testament to Lakota artistry and resilience.



From Your Secretary

Dear Cousins,

I hope this message finds you well and that the past year has been kind to you all. I've been diving deep into genealogy classes and immersing myself in my family tree research. It can sometimes be a tedious act of names and dates, but I truly love every moment spent uncovering my heritage!

In addition to my research, I've been cherishing quality time with my four-year-old grandson, Fisher, whose boundless energy never fails to bring joy to my life. Furthermore, we celebrated an addition to our family in July with the birth of our new grandson, Townes, who has already stolen our hearts.

I want to connect with all of you more effectively, so we are still in need of some email addresses. If you haven't received any emails from us lately, please take a moment to update your contact information.

Unfortunately, I won't be at the meeting in October. We have other obligations. I hope that those of you who attend the meeting love the meeting place. I'm so sad to miss this meeting.

Warm regards,
Tammy Bourne

From Your Treasurer

Greetings to all!

It's Annual Dues time once again! For those paying annually, make your \$60.00 check payable to: "South Dakota Mayflower Society", mail by December 1, 2025 and send to:

Cyndi Nelson, Treasurer
South Dakota Mayflower Society
1346 Galveston Ave
Hot Springs SD 57747

Life Members may consider mailing donations to the same address. Or, feel free to make your payments to me in person during the Annual Meeting. Thank you so much!

Blessings,
Cyndi

From Your Deputy Governor

"Why I joined the Mayflower Society"

Hello fellow pilgrims. That almost sounds like John Wayne! I want to tell a story of how a friend came to want to join the SD Mayflower Society. If you have read your Fall 2025 Mayflower Quarterly Magazine, you know that there is request for 300 word articles discussing the topic of "why did I join".

Our family has written about what we are doing with our ancestors in a prior issue. Let me describe how a friend was motivated to join. Barry Barber is a third-generation rancher from the Badlands. His family are neighbors and friends of our family for 135 years. When I was in grade school I met his mother's family. Their name was Alden but it meant nothing to me at that age.

Fast forward when I asked Barry for an oral history about our families in Dakota Territory. When we discussed our connection to the Mayflower, he said I believe my mother's family traces back to the Mayflower as well! We did some research as I told him that name sounded familiar. Sure, enough, John Alden was a signer of the Compact and a passenger arriving at Plymouth. He was known as a respected member and a magistrate of the colony. We found that there are approximately 1 million Alden descendants that include Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams and singer Marilyn Monroe. There is an Alden Kindred of America that maintains the clan records.

Barry lives in Nebraska but told me he wants to come to the meeting in Rapid City. He has a book of the Alden lineage and wants to get help in his application. I told him he would be welcome and there will be people there to assist.

The takeaway is this. It will help our Society if each of us to talk to people about your personal membership and why you joined the Society. Per FamilySearch.org, there is believed to be 35 million living descendants in the world and 10 million living in the United States.

We need more members. I call on you to ask people to join the Society. Tell them we are here to help them in their application as that seems to be an obstacle. Recently we started a "check-in" calling program of current members. It has resulted in more potential candidates for membership from our members' friends and members.

If we want to perpetuate our Society and stay viable, this is vital. I thank you for your membership and hope you will pick up the phone or go have coffee with your friends and neighbors!

Casey Peterson - Deputy Governor

2025 South Dakota Mayflower Society Meeting Agenda – October 4, 2025
Crazy Horse Memorial, 12151 Avenue of the Chiefs, Crazy Horse, SD 57730-8900
“Mountain View Room”

9AM-11AM

INVOCATION – Elder Philip Blum

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG – Captain John Lefler or Captain General Collier Wiese

CALLING OF THE ROLL – Officers and New Members - Governor Randy Olivier; Ancestors – Historian Robin Fansler

READING OF THE MINUTES – Deputy Governor Casey Peterson

COMMUNICATIONS - General Congress Report, Captain General Report

REPORTS OF OFFICERS - Governor Randy Olivier, Deputy Governor Casey Peterson, Treasurer Cyndi Nelson, Secretary Tammy Bourne, Historian Robin Fansler, Elder Philip Blum, Captain John Lefler, Surgeon Dr. Stuart Rice

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES - Nominating Committee, Membership Outreach Committee

11AM-12PM

GUEST SPEAKER – Paul Horsted on “The Black Hills Yesterday and Today.”

12PM-1PM

LUNCH – Taco Bar; Laughing Water Restaurant

1PM-2PM

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Filling officer roles, updating SD website, Adding Zoom for larger participation, Nominating committee, Scholarship and Outreach committees

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Creating a Co-Historian role and nominating a Co-Historian
- b. Officer Role – Counselor, Captain
- c. Adding Committees and Chairs
- d. Adding Officer Insurance
- e. \$175 per supplement now added to Bylaw language - FYI
- f. Website Update and Donation/Fundraising/Living Trust Requests to Fund it
- g. South Dakota Star Quilt
- h. Merchandise available for sale
- i. Pics with Turkeys
- j. Scholarship 2026
- k. Coffee Clutches by area

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ADJOURNMENT

BENEDICTION

2PM-3PM

POST MEETING - GROUP PHOTO & MOUNTAIN TRIP (Optional - Please RSVP if you would like to do the bottom or top tour; payment will be separate and due before the tour.):

- Bus ride to bottom of mountain - \$5.00
- Van ride to top of mountain - \$125.00

68th Annual Meeting of
Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of SD
(a 501 C3 Organization)
5 October 2024
Armour, South Dakota

Governor Randy Olivier opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Thirty members were present, and four members were on Zoom. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Governor General Lisa Pennington, followed by a prayer from the Pilgrims at Prayer booklet by Elder Philip Blum.

DGG Carter Wiese spoke about the GBOA, including some highlights from their September trip to Asheville, NC.

- Their meeting was held two weeks before the flooding.
- There is a new Easy Application Generator to help with new memberships.
- A new DNA policy and committee are in place to help prove lineage using DNA.
- 1620 Club—This is a club of donors who pledge at least \$1,620 annually. These funds help the Governor General fund projects not within the budget. This money is being used to restore the Mayflower Meeting House in Plymouth. Five million dollars have been spent. They've raised 8.5 million and still need 7.7 million to complete the restorations. It will be amazing when finished.
- Plymouth would like each state society to send 5k to help the Governor General with her restorations.
- The 1620 Bells are redone in the Meeting house. Soon, they will be turned on and play Christmas songs.

DGG Carter Wiese introduced our General Society Guests:

- **Secretary General:** Martin "Marty" Beerman from Nebraska
- **Historian General:** Alexandra "Allie" Shires Golon from Colorado is working on the Easy App Generator to help historians with new members. The new application system will be a game changer. She is also working with Chris Schlosser on indexing ALL Mayflower applications. They need indexers to help.
- **Captain General:** Collier Wiese from South Dakota
- **Member at Large:** Christine "Chris" Schlosser from Wisconsin - head of the tech committee and works closely with Allie Golon.
- **Governor General:** Lisa Pennington from Texas gave a PowerPoint presentation on her current project of restoring the Meeting House and the history of the Mayflower passengers and society.
 - To view the PowerPoint or the recording of the meeting:
<https://www.sdmayflower.org/our-members/>

Reports of Officers and Committees:

- **Governor Randy Olivier**
 - Discussed possibly meeting more than once a year. This can be accomplished with coffee meetings in different locations. This was discussed among members and could be a way of getting more involved.
 - Randy wants to update our SD website. He believes the cost could be between \$5,000 and \$7,000. Collier Wiese moved to investigate and move forward with a more dynamic website with officers' spending discretion, and Shelley Seager seconded.
 - It was discussed that a handheld mic could be used during the meeting if we continue to use Zoom so participants can hear more easily. Officers will look into this.

- **Governor Randy Olivier** (continued)
 - Scholarship and Membership Outreach Committee. Barb Harms moved to add an education committee, which Sharon Wiese seconded. Barb volunteered to chair the committee.
 - Would like to look into a Quarterly Newsletter sent electronically.
- **Treasurer Cynthia Nelson** distributed the written report.
- **Secretary Tammy Bourne** referred everyone to the newsletter's report on new, dropped, and deceased members and asked members to update us with emails so we could start sending more information electronically. Robin Fansler moved to approve the report, which Shelley Seager seconded. The motion carried.
- **Historian Robin Fansler** discussed the role of the historian and membership.
- **Surgeon Stuart Rice** wants to write a column about the mortality rate of passengers with many diseases. He wants to dig into the life spans back then and childbirth/mortality.

Lunch: Pizza and salad

Old Business

- The newsletter was sent electronically. A few rejected emails were received, but we are still working on getting emails to continue being sent electronically to reduce costs.

New Business

- We still need a Counselor role filled.
- We will begin adding Zoom to the meetings for larger membership participation.
- Officer's terms are up in the 25/26 term.
- Indexers needed to input old applications from the vault.
- New Junior Membership Chair - Cynthia Nelson

Memorial Time: Tammy Bourne read the names of deceased members reported this past year

Benediction: A prayer of benediction was read by Philip Blum from Pilgrims at Prayer

The Meeting was Adjourned

Turkey Report: The turkeys were handed over from Marsha Sumpter, who told us about their journeys to Las Vegas and Oregon. The turkeys were given to Randy Olivier for next year

Next Year: Collier Wiese motioned to hold the meeting in Rapid City, and Philip Blum seconded it. The motion carried. The meeting will be on Saturday, October 4th, in Rapid City, South Dakota. The location:

TBD

Tammy Bourne, Secretary

South Dakota Mayflower Society

07/31/2024 Ending Balance		\$8,316.67
Income		
2022 Dues Paid	\$120.00	\$8,436.67
2023 Dues Paid	\$180.00	\$8,616.67
2024 Dues Paid	\$900.00	\$9,516.67
2025 Dues Paid	\$5,040.00	\$14,556.67
New Life Members	\$2,400.00	\$16,956.67
New Junior Members	\$105.00	\$17,061.67
2024 Annual Meeting	\$1,121.00	\$18,182.67
Donations	\$740.00	\$18,922.67
Application Fees	\$2,350.00	\$21,272.67
Supplemental Fees	\$1,175.00	\$22,447.67
Account Interest	\$73.27	\$22,520.94
Meeting House Donations	\$3,000.00	\$25,520.94
Vanguard Investment	\$16,917.01	\$42,437.95
BankWest - Estatement Incentive	\$20.00	\$42,457.95
Expenses		
Randy Oiivier - 2024 Newsletter (x2)	\$563.82	\$41,894.13
Carter Wiese - Mayflower Gifts	\$305.00	\$41,589.13
GSMD Application PrePay	\$1,950.00	\$39,639.13
GSMD Membership Dues	\$10,605.00	\$29,034.13
Meeting House - Governor Gen Gift	\$500.00	\$28,534.13
Meeting House Donation	\$5,000.00	\$23,534.13
Bank West Check Order	\$22.95	<u><u>\$23,511.18</u></u>
08/19/25 Reconciled Bank Balance		<u><u>\$23,511.18</u></u>
CorTrust Bank CD (07/29/25)		\$12,888.47

South Dakota Mayflower Society
Attn: Tammy Bourne
11999 Aspen Way
Whitewood SD 57793