

ALABAMA PILGRIM

A Newsletter for the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Alabama
April, 2015

ANNUAL MEETING

April 25th, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.

Board of Assistants Meeting – 10:00 a.m.

Valley Hill Country Club, Huntsville, Alabama

Guest Speaker – Jacquelyn Procter Reeves, Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

The Annual Meeting is upon us and I look forward to seeing you at the Valley Hill Country Club on **Saturday, April 25th, 2015, in Huntsville**. There's a lot going on in Huntsville on this particular weekend and I invite you to look for Lt. Gov. Deen Rice's message in this issue of the *Alabama Pilgrim* as you make plans to travel to Huntsville. We try our best to visit all three colonies in the great State of Alabama, and it's the Tennessee Valley Colony's turn in Huntsville!



We had *our* BIG holiday since we last met (Thanksgiving) and I was invited to speak in Children's Church at a church in Pinson,

Alabama about our Pilgrim ancestry and what it means to be a descendant. The youth were very attentive, and very informed—complete with Pilgrim's hat and headdress.

Our Deputy Governor, Ellie Lienau, has arranged for Huntsville author **Jacquelyn Procter Reeves** to speak to us at the Annual Meeting. Ms. Reeves is the president of the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society, has written 12 books on local history and true crime, and has been featured on the Oxygen Network program, *Snapped*. In addition, Jacque is the founder of Avalon Tours, co-founder of Huntsville Ghost Walk and Mischief and Mayhem Tours, and served as curator of the historic Donnell House for 11 years. Although Jacque is a native New Mexican, her ancestors were among the earliest settlers of North Alabama.

Please join us as Jacque discusses the tragic period of time that our ancestors lived in and how it impacted our early society.

The reservation form is at the end of the newsletter. I hope to see you on April 25th!

God bless you, Rich Hobson

DELICIOUS MEAL ON SAT., April 25th:

“citrus” cranberry chicken, *mixed* vegetable medley, *battered* sweet potatoes, “tossed” green salad, rolls,

chocolate mousse, water, tea, and coffee. All of this can be yours for *only* \$21.00!! Please join us!!

CURRENT OFFICERS

Governor – Rich Hobson,
hobsonschoice@knology.net, 334/328-5357
Deputy Gov. General - Alan Davis, 334.270.8657
Assistant General – Ann Ferguson, 256.234.4460
Deputy Governor – Ellie Lienau, 256.655.9452
Secretary - Alan Davis, 334.270.8657
Elder – Ruby Hassell, 334.358.2361
Captain – Anne Kilgrow
Historian - Charlotte Hobson, 334.897.3510
Librarian - Carol Kitchens, 256.748.4056
Assistants – Ann Ferguson, 256.234.4460
Monte Horton, 205.798.9987
Pam Pittman, 334.279.7976
Deen Rice, 256.533.4991

We are here to *serve* The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Alabama. Anytime that we can assist you please let us know. We need your help, input, suggestions, and support. Please feel free to contact us with any concerns. Thanks!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

This Spring we welcome **5 new members!** Please welcome fellow relatives: **Hazel Bozeman Phillips, John Alonzo Smith, Betty Kathryn (Pratt) Barrett, Jane Kelyn Killian and Barbara Claire Rouze.**

We hope to see you in Huntsville on April 25th.

IN MEMORIUM

We are not aware of any deaths since our last meeting.

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you will join us for the Spring Meeting in Huntsville on Saturday, April 25th at the Valley Hill Country Club located at 8300 Valley Hill Drive SE (256-883-0850). This weekend will be an exciting one for the Huntsville area. Two major events (other than our meeting) will take place, starting on Friday, April 24th.

The 33rd annual Panoply Arts Festival will be held Friday, April 24th through Sunday, April 26th in downtown Huntsville's Big Spring Park. "Panoply is the Southeast's premier arts weekend where Huntsville's innovative spark shine through a festival of art, music and more!" More than 65 Arts Council members and local performers will entertain across 5 performance areas in the park.

In addition, *The Secret Sisters* will perform Friday night and the *Indigo Girls* will perform Saturday night. If you fancy fiddling, visit Panoply on Saturday for the Official Alabama State Fiddling Championship. Tickets are a reasonable \$7.50 per day. Visit <http://www.artshuntsville.org> for more information.

In addition, the NATURE CONNECTS Art with LEGO Bricks exhibit opens on April 24th at the Huntsville Botanical Garden. Just as LEGO bricks connect to create something colorful, intricate and fun, so does nature. Visit Huntsville Botanical Garden to see 27 amazing sculptures made from nearly half a million LEGO bricks by New York artist and Lego Certified Professional, Sean Kenney. Set in 14 scenes, these sculptures engage youth and adults alike using one of the most classic toys and most popular hobbies in the world. The Huntsville Botanical Garden is the first garden in the Southeast to host this exhibit which will run through July 26, 2015. Admission is required for non-members. Visit <http://www.hsvbg.org> for more information.

There are several hotels that are within walking distance to downtown Huntsville.

Embassy Suites Huntsville, 800 Monroe Street 256-539-7373

SpringHill Suites by Marriott Huntsville, 745 Constellation Place Drive SW 256-512-0188

Homewood Suites by Hilton Downtown Huntsville, 714 Gallatin Street SW 256-539-1445

I'm looking forward to seeing you April 25th.

Best regards,

Deen P. Rice

Lt. Governor, Tennessee Valley Colony

The Mayflower Society
General Society of Mayflower Descendants
Founded at Plymouth, Massachusetts 1897

Any person able to document their descent from one or more of the following Mayflower Pilgrims is eligible to apply for membership in the Mayflower Society:

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| John Alden | Francis Eaton | Thomas Rogers |
| Isaac Allerton | Moses Fletcher | Henry Samson |
| Mary (Norris) Allerton | Edward Fuller | George Soule |
| John Billington | Samuel Fuller | Myles Standish |
| William Bradford | Stephen Hopkins | John Tilley |
| William Brewster | Elizabeth (Fisher) Hopkins | Joan (Hurst) Tilley |
| Peter Browne | John Howland | Richard Warren |
| James Chilton | Richard More | William White |
| Francis Cooke | William Mullins | Edward Winslow |
| Edward Doty | Degory Priest | |

Many families hold a tradition that they are descended from the Pilgrims, which often kindles an interest in finding out more. Sometimes the stories of a Mayflower heritage are true and it is easy to document a descent. More often the documentation is missing and must be researched and supplied to prove your line. The good news is it that advanced research techniques, improved genealogy library collections and computerized resources have made it easier to track down your Pilgrim roots.

The best documentation to look for is vital records such as the birth, marriage, and death certificates for each person. Other documentation might be published genealogies, family documents and other official records. If you have a relative who is a member of the Society, you may be able to use their lineage documentation to help you with your research.

Memberships are handled through individual state societies. As a first step, you may contact your state society or you may inquire about a possible Mayflower line using the Preliminary Review Form found at www.themayflowersociety.com.



If you would like to make an inquiry about membership, please call 334/897-3510, Charlotte Hobson, Alabama Society Historian, or the national office at 508-746-3188. www.themayflowersociety.com

We are publishing these unapproved minutes of the Annual Meeting for two reasons. The most important is so that those who are unable to attend will learn of the activities of our Society at our meetings. Hopefully you will find something of interest and will decide to make the effort to attend. The other reason is so that those who attended might be better prepared to approve the minutes without having them read at the meetings. This will save time at the meetings.

**SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS
IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA**
STATE SOCIETY COMPACT DAY MEETING MINUTES

The *Society of Mayflower Descendants of the State of Alabama* met on Saturday, November 1st, 2014 at *The Club* in Birmingham. The following Officers were present:

Governor – Rich Hobson

Deputy Governor – Ellie Lienau

Treasurer – Mary Helen Mahan

Elder- Ruby Hassell

Librarian – Carol Kitchens

Board of Assistant 2- Pam Pittman

*Deputy Governor General – Alan M. Davis

Lt. Gov. Gulf Coast Colony-

Lt. Gov. TN. Val. Colony –Deen Rice

Secretary –Alan M. Davis

Historian – Charlotte Hobson

Captain – Ann Kilgrow

Board of Assistant 1-Ann Ferguson

Board of Assistant 3- Deen Rice

*Assistant General –Ann Ferguson

Lt. Gov. Cap Colony- Alan M. Davis

* General Society Officers

Governor Rich Hobson called the meeting to order at 11:15 o'clock a.m., welcomed and thanked everyone in attendance today.

Elder Ruby Hassell read the Elder's Prayer, Objects of the Society and the Mayflower Compact.

Gov. Rich Hobson led the meeting in reciting of *The Pledge of Allegiance* to the United States Flag.

Roll call was held and the members who were present introduced themselves, their guest and listed their ancestor(s).

Ancestors represented: John Alden-4, John Billington- 1, William Bradford-1, William Brewster-4, Peter Brown-1, Francis Cooke-1, Edward Doty-5, Edward Fuller-5, Samuel Fuller-2, Stephen Hopkins-5, John Howland-2, Pricilla Mullins-4, Thomas Rogers- 1, George Soule-3, John Tilly-1, Richard Warren-1, .

The Secretary, Alan Davis said the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on May 3rd 2014 were published in the November Newsletter and he read excerpts of the minutes. Gov. Hobson asked if there were any corrections to be made. The minutes were voted on and accepted as presented.

The Treasurer, Mary Helen Mahan gave her report:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Beginning overall Balance 5/14/2014 | | \$20,842.32 |
| Beginning Checking Account Balance | | \$6,103.82 |
| Total Income | \$2057.00 | |
| Total Expenses | \$1540.10 | |
| Ending Checking Account Balance | | \$6,620.72 |
| Life Dues account | | \$7,309.93 |
| CD 23125578 | | \$3,696.74 |
| CD 23125969 | | \$3,737.83 |
| Ending overall Balance 11/1/2014 | | \$21,365.22 |

The Treasure's report was voted on and approved as presented.

Mary Helen announced that she is accepting dues for 2015 and that there are forms in the back of the room for members to fill out if there are any changes in their status.

Gov. Hobson talked about the Society status and membership of the Mayflower Society and the heritage of the Society and encouraged members to encourage their family members to join as well. He reported that he had gone to the Gulf Coast Colony meeting held at Felix's Fish Camp Restaurant last Saturday. He spoke of our ancestors who left England to come to the New World to start a new life

Deputy Governor General Alan Davis reported that he, **Ann Ferguson, Deen Rice, Ellie Lienau** and **Mary Helen Mahan** had attended the General Congress this past September and will defer to Ann Ferguson who had a much more detailed report that was in the Newsletter.

Assistant Governor Ann Ferguson reported on the General Congress: **As published in the Newsletter:**

It was my privilege and pleasure to represent Alabama at the 40th Triennial General Congress of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants held in Plymouth, MA, Sept. 7-9, 2014. Also representing Alabama were **Alan Davis**, Deputy Governor General/State Secretary/Lt. Governor Capital Colony (who was contacted directly by Governor General MacGunnigle to act as official timekeeper during business meetings at Congress); **Ellie Lienau**, State Deputy Governor; **Mary Helen Mahan**, State Treasurer; and **Deen Rice**, Lt. Governor Tennessee Valley Colony.

A total of 479 officers, delegates, members, and guests convened in Plymouth. Congress reports and business meetings were held over two full days. Since there were 28 proposed amendments to the constitution to be voted on plus a new slate of officers to elect, business items that can only be accomplished at a triennial Congress, we did not get to most of the committee reports on the agenda. They will be published in the *Mayflower Quarterly*.

Outgoing Governor General Bruce MacGunnigle reported that on his 3-year term he traveled to 34 states (including Alabama) and signed 6,000 membership certificates for a total of 30,000 members. His three priorities during his term were to (1) promote a new sense of organization, (2) continue protecting our Society, and (3) establish open communication. The

Governor General initiated a series of conference calls to the General Board of Assistants and followed up with written notes and also actions of all Exec Comm. meetings. This was an enormous help in preparing GBOA officers to become knowledgeable of the issues so as to make more informed decisions at the two GBOA meetings (2012 and 2013) plus the Congress. He also reported that there is much more awareness that our Society must follow all rules of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office and U.S. Office of Homeland Security. We have a \$1 million budget, \$2 million headquarters (the Mayflower House) and \$10 million in assets. There is a lot to protect. Another change became necessary: a board cannot have a paid officer which previously the Historian General was. So now the Historian General will not be paid and a new paid staff position, Director of Genealogy, was created. The Director of Genealogy will get all admission paperwork to the point where it can be presented to the Historian General for final approval.

The Treasurer General reported we ended the year with a \$980,000 surplus. Brown Brothers Harriman continues to do a fine job as our investment firm. We also received a \$1.95 million endowment. A part-time business manager was hired to handle daily business. The yearly budget has 90 line items all reviewed by the Exec Director, Treasurer General, business manager, and finance committee. Next, the Exec Comm. reviews and passes the budget.

The Counselor General reported that her priorities have been to (1) adopt policies for risk reduction, (2) adopt best practices for non-profits and management, (3) help in the creation of a strategic, mission driven plan for the next three years, and (4) help state societies with issues.

The Executive Director presented his 1st report to Congress. Accomplishments included two fund-raising campaigns, joining Plymouth 400 Inc., working with sister Plymouth organizations, serving as president of Plymouth Historical Alliance, developing accession/deaccession policy for the Mayflower House museum pieces, and continuing to work with staff.

The new strategic plan was presented. Four basic tenants of it include (1) fund development, (2) membership outreach, (3) constituent society outreach, and (4) administration and operations. The plan includes a process of developing goals and follow-up evaluation.

There were also award presentations and information given about the college scholarships that have been established. The CHAP (Cole's Hill Anthropological Project) committee reported that they will not be allowed to dig on Cole's Hill for possible Pilgrim bones but they will be opening the Sarcophagus to study the bones buried there and also to repair the lettering on the Sarcophagus listing all Pilgrim ancestors who died the first winter. The Historic Sites committee reported that the next historic sites tour in England will be in Sept. 2015.

Of the 28 proposed amendments to the constitution, all of them passed, with only a few slightly modified. The main purpose of these amendments was to clarify and better organize the constitution and to adopt practices already being used. It also now includes job duties for all general officers, and the Surgeon General, Elder General, and Captain General will now be regular members of the Executive Committee. The per capita assessment paid to the General Society will increase from \$11.00 to \$15.00 each year.

New officers were then elected:

| | |
|---|--|
| Governor General | Lea Filson, Louisiana |
| Assistant Governor General | George Garmany, Colorado |
| Secretary General | Susan Roser, Canada |
| Treasurer General | Donald Studley, Connecticut |
| Historian General | Marjorie Hurtuk, Connecticut |
| Elder General | Kenneth Whittemore, Jr., California and D.C. |
| Captain General | Reynolds Cushing, Florida |
| Surgeon General | Naomi Mann, Louisiana |
| Counselor General | Richard Gilmore, Massachusetts |
| Executive Committee: Members at Large | |
| Virginia Mucciaccio, MA; Richard Denham, TX; Stephen Arnold, WA | |

As in the past, I will end on a personal note. I was delighted that my adult daughter, **Carrie Ferguson**, who I have been taking to our local Mayflower meetings since she was in grade school, asked if she could accompany me and my husband to Plymouth. After hearing about it all her life, she wanted to see for herself and immerse herself in her Pilgrim heritage. So we attended worship service at the Pilgrim's church, Church of the Pilgrimage, with their magnificent choir and newly restored Roche organ. We dressed as Pilgrim ladies and participated in the Pilgrim's Progress to the opening ceremony and then attended the welcome reception afterwards in the beautiful gardens of the Mayflower House. While I attended meetings she visited Pilgrim Hall Museum, Mayflower II, and Plimoth Plantation where she conversed with our 19-year old ancestor Edward Fuller and assured him that she saw marriage in his future. As a bonus she even got to see a juvenile whale jump out of the water on a whale-watching cruise. We then attended the closing banquet together & relished our time together sharing our heritage.

Upcoming General Society Meetings:

2015 GBOA meeting hosted by Connecticut, 2016 GBOA meeting hosted by Indiana
2017 41st Triennial Congress, Plymouth, MA, Only three years to the 2020 celebration!
2018 GBOA meeting hosted by Illinois
2019 ?

Dep. Gov. Ellie Lienau thanked everyone for coming today. She also thanked the Society for letting her go to the Congress as a delegate and added that Alabama was done proud because Alan Davis was asked to be the official "Time Keeper" for the Congress business proceedings. She mentioned that while there she went to the Mayflower House to see the "Memorial Bricks" in the garden and that the Alabama Society has 2 bricks there, one correct and the other one. She added that there are still blank bricks there for anyone to purchase as a memorial to what or whom the desire. She said she attended the Fuller Society Meeting that occurred during the Congress time and encouraged others to join the ancestors family society if they had one and try to make their meetings as well. Some societies meet on a yearly basis at various places. The next meeting in the Spring of 2015 in May will be in Huntsville. She also asked for input for programs for the meeting.

Captain Ann Kilgrow reported that as Captain she was told that one of her duties was to keep the Mayflower flag and was informed that someone would be the flag to the meeting today. She

added that she had been unable to the Congress but had attended last time and enjoyed that trip but hopes to participate to attend the General Society's Board Meetings.

Before the **Historian Charlotte Hobson** reported she was presented with a Certificate of Award and Medal for her outstanding service to the State Society and educating children in the classroom for the Society as a whole. She reported that during the past 2 years her husband had cancer that accumulated with his death this past January and thanked everyone for being patient with her during that time. She reported that we now have 187 members, 3 new transfers in: **J. Daniel Barham, Allen J. Burdick and Bruce T. Robinson**. We have 4 new members: **Lucia Gayle Stephens Grantham, William Thomas Stephens, Paul Bran DiNardo and Glenna Susan Long Sullivan**. There are 4 sets of papers in Plymouth, 1 sent out for signatures, 10 working papers had been sent to 10 different people. 1 to member transfer in. She had gotten 10 new inquiries this week, 3 new Junior Members and 2 sets of papers to send to Plymouth she said she had been busy. She then presented **Glenna Sullivan** with her Certificate of Membership.

Elder Ruby Hassell reported happily that no one has died since our last meeting.

The Librarian Carol Kitchens reported she has her box of Librarian stuff. A round of applause was given to her

COLONY REPORTS:

Lt. Gov. of the Capital Colony Alan Davis reported that the Capital Colony will have its meeting the first week in February 2015 and plan to have Mrs. Mary Ann Neeley as the speaker. She is the Historian of Montgomery and invited all to come.

Lt. Gov. of the Tennessee Valley Colony Deen Rice was not here and Gov. Hobson asked everyone to keep Deen's husband in their prayers. Ellie reported we had a meeting a couple of weeks ago in the Heritage Room of the Huntsville Library to learn how to get all kinds paperwork necessary for genealogy work. She invited everyone to come to Huntsville on April 25th 2015 at a Valley Hill Country Club with a local historian for the speaker. She added that that weekend will be a local arts weekend and for anyone interested in art should enjoy that as well.

Lt. Gov. of the Gulf Coast Colony Robert Howell is not here today and Gov. Hobson added that they have a great colony and encouraged everyone to attend their colony meetings

NEW BUSINESS:

Gov. Hobson reported that in the Board meeting earlier that they had voted to reimburse those delegates who attended the General Congress \$200.00 each for their expenses. He had appointed a By-Laws committee consisting of himself, Alan Davis, Ann Ferguson, Ellie Lienau, and Mary Helen Mahan to review the by-laws and make current with the General Society's By-Laws recent changes. They also voted to donate \$250.00 to the Silver Book in honor of Past Governor

General Bruce MacGunnigle, who spoke to our Society last November. He said he will appoint a nominating committee in the next few weeks to select officers for the upcoming term.

Jim Kight announced that Stephen Hopkins had written a book which was an account of his life called "*Here I die Ashore*" available on Amazon and Kendal.

Gov. Hobson reminded everyone that the next meeting will be in Huntsville and encouraged all to go to that meeting. With that he said, "The Kingdom is well!"

There being no further business to conduct, the official state meeting was adjourned at 12:05 o'clock p.m. and Governor Hobson led us in prayer as we thanked God for our Blessings and the meal to come.

After the delicious meal Dr. Engler, the current Governor of the Alabama Company of the Jamestowne Society, serving his second term in that office, presented a brief history of the Jamestowne Settlement and its role in early foundations of representative government in Virginia.

[Alan M. Davis](#)
Secretary



ANNUAL MEETING RESERVATIONS

**I will attend the Annual Meeting and Luncheon April 25, 2015 at 11:00 am.
Valley Hill Country Club, Huntsville, Alabama
(8300 Valley Hill Dr SE 35802, off of Willowbrook Dr., (256) 883-0850)**

Cost - *only* \$21.00 per person

Name _____

_____ **Yes, I plan to attend**

_____ **# Guests I am bringing (Please include their names)**

_____, _____, _____,

_____ **Check enclosed made out to SMDAL**

_____ **Pay at the door (you will be billed if you don't cancel by noon on April 23)**

Return to be received by April 20, 2015 to:

**Ellie Lienau
12006 Northgate Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35810
Email: elienau@mchsi.com
Home: 256.852.4802
Cell: 256.655.9452**

Menu: citrus cranberry chicken, mixed vegetable medley, buttered sweet potatoes, tossed green salad, rolls, chocolate mousse, water, tea, and coffee

WE'LL SEE YOU IN HUNTSVILLE ON SATURDAY, April 25, 2015!!!!

Rich Hobson
7436 Old Barn Rd.
Montgomery, AL 36117
334.328.5357