ALABAMA PILGRIM

A Newsletter for the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Alabama October, 2011

COMPACT DAY MEETING

November 12, 2011 - 11:00 a.m.
Board of Assistants Meeting – 9:30

The Club

1 Robert S. Smith Drive, Birmingham, Alabama
Guest Speaker – Mrs. Sharon Tucker
"History of Huntingdon College"

DUES and RESERVATION FORMS ON LAST PAGE

Our speaker for the Compact Day Meeting will be Mrs. Sharon Tucker, Archivist for the Alabama West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church and Special Collections at Huntingdon College. She is a graduate of Choctawhatchee High School in Fort Walton Beach, Florida; has a B.S. from Troy University in Troy, Alabama; and a M.S. in Education from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Sharon was an Elementary School Teacher for almost twenty years, did almost twenty years of volunteer work; and in 2005, became the Research Assistant for the Methodist Archives Center. In 2008, when Mrs. Mary Ann Pickard resigned, she became the Archivist.

Her husband, Allen Tucker who retired from Long-term Health Care is presently a part-time pastor of Mount Carmel United Methodist Church in Letohatchee, Alabama. They have a daughter, Jill and a son, Tim.

Sharon's topic will be "The History of Huntingdon College." Huntingdon College is one of the premiere liberal arts colleges in the Southeast. It is located in Montgomery, Alabama. She will share the expansion of the college from its beginnings in Tuskegee, Alabama in 1854 as a women's college; and thus, the educational history of the South by discussing the college's growth during each decade with emphasis on specific historical events during that time frame.

She will discuss Huntingdon College's connection with the United Methodist Church. She will bring some artifacts from the college and will expound on a few of the more famous graduates and their accomplishments.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

It has been a very hot, busy summer! The time since our meeting last April has been speeding by. I guess the old adage that time flies when you are having fun. My hope is that each of you has had a very enjoyable summer and is looking forward to the cooler weather the Fall will provide. Our Compact Day meeting has been set early enough so that hopefully it will conflict with your holiday plans. It is also on a Saturday when our major football teams are playing out-of-state. What other reasons can you have to keep you away?

Alabama received some publicity in the September issue of The Mayflower Quarterly. On page 221, your Governor was pictured with then Governor General Judith Swan during her visit to Alabama for the April, 2011 State Society meeting. She came to Montgomery on Thursday evening so that she could visit our capitol city. Ellie Lienau, Darlene and Alan Davis helped me entertain her. We had dinner at Ham 'N High and

Garrett's restaurants. On Thursday, we made a short tour of the highlights of downtown Montgomery including the State Department of Archives and History, Little White House of the Confederacy and the State Capitol.

Please read your Mayflower Quarterly. It is filled with interesting articles about our Mayflower heritage. Also, you will learn about your Society and its organization and all the things it is doing. Check out our website – www.TheMayflowerSociety.org. It has been newly revised and is so much improved. While you are on the web, visit the Alabama Society site as well, www.alabamamayflowersociety.com.

Again as in the last message, I want to encourage each of you to become active in your colony and to come to our state meetings. Our speakers are interesting and educational. The friendships forged through participation are invaluable. To promote the Pilgrim heritage is a big part of the objects of our Society. We learn a lot from each other when we participate and therefore have more to share with others.



Left to right; John Medberry, new member Diane Mace, Mary Helen Mahan and Robert Howell at the Gulf Coast Colony meeting on May 21, 2011. I would like to thank Robert Howell for stepping forward to serve the Gulf Coast Colony as Lt. Governor. Only by having good people volunteer to serve our Society can we continue as a vital organization.

We greatly appreciate the many years that John Medberry served in that capacity. He faithfully served for 8 years and will continue his service as Treasurer. Thanks to Sid Leak for his program on Lt. General Richard Taylor, son of President Zachery Taylor. Richard was descended from both Isaac Allerton and William Brewster. Sid presented his program to both the Gulf Coast and

Capital Colonies. Thanks, Sid. Sid has been invited to present a program to the Downtown Mobile Rotary Club on Nov. 10. As part of that talk, he will explain a little about the Society of Mayflower Descendents. Congrats, Sid!

I am looking forward to seeing you all on Nov. 12. Your membership renewal (dues) form and registration forms are on last page. Dues are due Dec. 31, 2011. Please mail to Ellie Lienau. Reservations for meeting go to Rich Hobson.

Mary Helen Mahan, Governor

FACEBOOK PAGE FOR JUNIORS

The National Society Junior Chairman has created a Facebook page for all Junior Members. The name of the group is Mayflower Jr Members (2009). The Society encourages all junior members to participate in the discussion group and to hear from other junior members. We invite Junior members to attend state and colony meetings with their sponsors to spark interest and participation.

OFFICERS

Governor -Mary Helen Mahan, mhm.smdal@charter.net, 334.395.8474

Deputy Gov. General - Alan Davis, 334.270.8657

Assistant General – Ann Ferguson, 256.234.4460

Deputy Governor - Rich Hobson, 334.272.0051

Secretary - Alan Davis, 334.270.8657

Elder – Alethea Cole-Tyson, 205.599.1028

Captain - Chris Gender, 256.883.1091

Historian - Charlotte Hobson, 334.897.3510

Librarian - Whitney Hobson, 334.272.0051

Assistants – Ann Ferguson, 256.234.4460

Monte Horton, 205.798.9987

Jerri Kight, 334.285.3573

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 fall we welcome 3 new members. They are **Linda Lea Alcott Maples**, **Amelia Brewster Hobson** and **Adelaide Miller Kilgrow Cherry**.

We extend a warm welcome to each of you and hope to see you on November 12.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - STATE MEETINGS - SAVE THE DATES

May 5, 2012	Annual Meeting	Huntsville Country Club 2601 Oakwood Avenue Huntsville, Alabama
Nov., 2012	Compact Day	To be announced

Alabama Assistant General Report 39th Triennial Congress General Society of Mayflower Descendants September 11-13, 2011

Alabama's delegates to this year's 39th Triennial Congress included Deputy Governor General Alan Davis, Assistant General Ann Ferguson, Governor Mary Helen Mahan, and Treasurer Ellie Lienau. Patient, good-sports spouses tagging along included Darlene Davis, Ken Mahan, and my husband John Ferguson. John's and my trip began on Saturday, September 10, as we headed to the Birmingham Airport among all the 10-year anniversary talk of 9/11. It turns out we had no major problems but did face a 3-hour delay only to be changed to a different, more direct flight. It turns out those commercials are true. Southwest really does love their bags. Our luggage arrived two hours before we did!

Upon arriving in Plymouth on a Saturday evening, John and I marveled at all the activity. The downtown was hopping with restaurants of all kinds, shops, and sports bars. You would have never known there was a recession from the looks of things. I think our Pilgrim ancestors would be proud that their three hundred and ninety one year old town appears to be thriving,

The next day, Sunday, September 11, began with a church service at the old fort/meeting house at Plimoth Plantation. We then got to walk around the "colony" as the colonists were beginning to appear and start in with their chores. We also got to visit the Wampanoag Indian village depicted there and explored the crafts center and of course the gift shop. Who knew you could make so many yummy things with cranberries?!

Next I participated, in Pilgrim attire for my third time, in the Pilgrim's Progress, walking from the Mayflower House to the Sarcophagus at Cole's Hill. We arrived there just as the 9/11 community memorial program overlooking the harbor was ending with the singing of "God Bless America." We Pilgrims all joined in. The names of those Pilgrims who died the first winter (1620-1621) and

were buried at night there at Cole's Hill in unmarked graves to try to prevent the Indians from

knowing the great numbers of people who had perished were read out. We then marched up to First Parish Church for the opening ceremony.



Parade Up the Hill

Although the current building is the fifth for this church, First Parish is the oldest continuously active congregation in this country. The church is built on the site of the Pilgrims' first meeting house. Although historically interesting for this fact, theologically our "Pilgrim church" actually split with First Parish in the 19th century. Today our



Pilgrim forefathers would be at home next door at

the Church of the Pilgrimage. A tradition in the opening ceremony, as at all Mayflower meetings, is the roll call where members stand when their ancestor's name is called. The opportunity is then given for the spouses and other guest to be recognized affectionately as the "outlaws," although John thinks the term "yard dogs" is much more appropriate!

Immediately following the opening ceremony there was a reception in the gardens at the Mayflower House (originally built in 1754, the home of Edward Winslow, a Pilgrim descendant and great-grandson of Governor Edward Winslow of Massachusetts). The dedication of the new brick walkway in the garden was held. Alabama's Society purchased a brick in the prominent center location. It is inscribed as pictured below.



Alabama's Brick

The middle line is from our Elder's Prayer. The last line was supposed to be September 2011 for the dedication year. We may need to decide if we want to pursue requesting that it be re-done.

Following the reception was a brief General Board of Assistants meeting where it was learned that next year's meeting is to be in New Jersey. Then Sunday evening small group tours were offered on board the Mayflower II by the staff and "players" from the Plimoth Plantation, the caretakers of the ship. We are happy to report that the MF II rode out Irene in fine style, with no damage. The day came to a fine close with the Alabama delegation and spouses sharing a delicious

seafood dinner on the deck of a waterside restaurant overlooking lovely Plymouth Harbor.

Monday, September 12, was the official start to two full days of Congress meetings with 347 delegates from 50 of 52 state societies present. So while the guy spouses were touring Cape Cod and steaming through Hyannis Port, the Alabama delegation went to work. I counted at least 38 reports that were given by the General officers and committee chairs. A necessarily brief summary includes that financially our Society is in good shape, thanks to diligent oversight, with our assets increasing in value over these past three difficult years in a troubled national economy. There will be no raise in per capita fees or any other fees. Repairs and maintenance continue on the Mayflower House and Gardens, the crown jewel of our assets. A \$5,000 scholarship was initiated and awarded to a Georgia high school senior. (Applicant requirements are on page 86 of the March 2011 Ouarterly). A grant was obtained and in 2010 academics from all over the country came to Plymouth for a two-week course of study in the Pilgrim and Wampanoag Indian history. They have since returned to their classrooms to impart this knowledge they obtained and many have published articles in academic journals. The GSMD website (www.themayflowersociety.com), although plagued with problems initially, is up and running. The Five Generation Project continues.

Overall we were reminded that the basic key to our Society's long-term health is membership. We should all seek to increase membership, publicity being one of the main ways to do that. Following the meeting we were the guests of Pilgrim Hall Museum for a reception with full access to the exhibits. I am reminded again of the amazing renovation to this facility, the oldest continuously operating museum in our country and home of our Pilgrim artifacts, from my first visit six years ago. I am proud of Alabama's financial contribution to this effort and the recognition of that fact by our state's name prominently displayed on a plaque in the facility.

To cap off the day, John and I took a swim in the indoor water park at the John Carver Inn, complete with the bow of the Mayflower protruding from the

wall out over the pool (we watched children climb through the ship to get to the waterslide – wonder what our Pilgrim ancestors would have thought of that?!). The water in the pool was a little chilly but the hot tub sure felt nice after sitting in one place most of the day.

Tuesday morning found the Alabama delegation in place for what turned out to be a marathon day (guy spouses reportedly on a whale-watching boat trip). In addition to election of new officers, a record 36 proposed amendments to the constitution and bylaws were on the agenda, which it turns out were about 24 more than can be tackled in one day. Highlights of the amendments actually voted on include the passing of the re-organized format of the constitution and by-laws, which had been debated for at least the past three years; removing the phrase "during a state of armed hostility" so that the per capita assessment will be waived on those excused in their State Societies who are actively engaged in the armed forces of his or her country of allegiance; modifying the location of where at least one member-at-large is from "west of the Mississippi" to "west of the 91st meridian and east of the 89th meridian (for you techies get out your GPS's – for the rest of us get out your old grade school globes. I personally did not think this was necessary – sounded like overkill to me); removing language that the by-laws may be suspended with a unanimous vote of the members present at a General Congress meeting; removing the requirement that two Society members vouch for an applicant; increasing from fifteen to forty-one the number needed for a quorum at General Board of Assistants meetings; adding language regarding the purpose of and dissolution of a non-profit corporation (IRS requirements).

It was <u>not</u> approved to increase the time that a proposed amendment must be submitted in writing prior to the General Congress or increase the time a printed copy of all proposed amendments is to be sent to the States; it was <u>not</u> approved to amend the language regarding Life Membership for Juniors; and it was <u>not</u> approved to add Former Governors General to the Executive Committee.

There were nominations from the floor for four different offices adding to the (running out of) time factor with additional speeches, discussion, and balloting. The slate of officers elected for 2011-2014 are:

Governor General Bruce MacGunnigle

Rhode Island

Asst. Governor General Lea Filson

Louisiana

Secretary General Susan Roser

Canada

Treasurer General Donald Studley

Connecticut

Historian General Paul Bumpus

Maine and Hawaii

Elder General C. Croydon Randall II

Michigan and Indiana

Captain General Kenneth Callison

Iowa

Surgeon General George Garmany

Colorado

Counselor General Sarah Clingman

South Carolina

Members at Large:

Priscilla Usher Rhode Island Virginia Mucciaccio Massachusetts Kenneth Whittemore, Jr. California

The 39th General Congress had then run out of time and the business meeting adjourned. It is left to be seen if this year's unfinished business will show up on the next Congress' agenda. The work done, it was time for a party and the Congress concluded with a banquet. Jeremy Bangs, author of *Strangers and Pilgrims-Travelers and Sojourners* was the guest speaker.

Unfortunately, from all indications, there was disharmony and disrespect among the General officers these past three years. I am in high hopes that our newly elected officers will handle our Society's business with mutual courtesy, respect, and professionalism as we continue the goals of our Society and prepare for our 400th anniversary celebration in 2020.

Our Alabama delegation then departed Plymouth in many different directions, most to go on to happily visit friends and relatives before returning home. John and I had to fly straight home so my only



(left to right) Mary Helen Mahan, Ann Ferguson, Pilgrim James Blauer from California, Alan Davis and Ellie Lienau pictured at the 39th Congress Closing Banquet

concern now as I write this is to retrieve my three bottles of delightful cranberry wine that traveled safely back to Alabama in the trunk of Mary Helen's and Ken's car!

Ann Ferguson, Assistant General

HISTORY AGREES...

"[The Mayflower Compact is] the first example in modern times of a social compact or system of government instituted by voluntary agreement conformable to the laws of nature, by men of equal rights and about to establish their community in a new country."

— John Quincy Adams

We are publishing these unapproved minutes of the Annual Meeting for 2 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

Founded 1959

ANNUAL MEETING, April 30, 2011

Unapproved Minutes

The Society of Mayflower Descendants of the State of Alabama met at Wynnlakes Country Club in Montgomery, Alabama, the following Officers were present:

Governor - Mary Helen Mahan
Deputy Governor - Richard Hobson
Secretary - Alan M. Davis
Treasurer - Ellie Lienau
Elder- Alethea Cole-Tyson
Board of Assistant 2- Deen Rice
Board of Assistant 4- Ann Ferguson
Deputy Governor General - Alan M. Davis
Assistant General - Ann Ferguson
Capitol Colony Lt. Gov. - Alan M. Davis
Tennessee Valley Colony Lt. Gov. - Marie Karlson

Governor Mary Helen Mahan called the **Compact Day Meeting** to order at 11:08 o'clock a.m. She welcomed members and guests and thanked everyone for being here today and especially our **Governor General, Judith Swan** for being our guest speaker today.

The Elder, Alethea Cole-Tyson read the Elder's Prayer, Objects of the Society, the Mayflower Compact, and led in the reciting of The Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

In the Roll Call there were twenty-six members and guests present today. The members introduced themselves, their guest and listed their ancestor(s). The new members who were present introduced themselves and their ancestors. Judy Swan said she has 23 descendants.

Copies of the minutes were handed out and upon hearing no corrections or additions, the Minutes of the November 2010 meeting were approved as presented.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

The **Governor**, Mary Helen Mahan, reported on the events and duties she performed since the November Meeting. She reported that she had written and mailed out 180 newsletters to our membership for the annual meeting, continuing work with Ellie Lienau and Alan Davis on updating the mailing list to keep them in line with the General Society's list. She held the Board of Assistant's meeting at her home on April 16, appointed Ann Ferguson and Deen Rice to the Nominating Committee, we still need a chair for the committee, made final arrangements for the Governor General's visit, and enjoyed spending time with Judy and showing her some of the sights of Montgomery especially the Archives and History.

The **Deputy Governor**, Richard Hobson, was not present as he was moving his daughter Whitney, our Librarian, back to Montgomery due to the several tornados that destroyed much of Tuscaloosa and North Alabama. The house, where she and her roommate were staying, was destroyed. She is ok and helped save her roommate, who panicked and tried to run outside during the storm. Whitney prevented her from doing so.

The **Deputy Governor General,** Alan M. Davis, reported that he will be attending the General Congress to be held in Plymouth Massachusetts on September 12th and 13th. The big items to be voted on there are the revision or realignment of the current Constitution and Bylaws, several amendments to the General Society's Constitution and Bylaws and the slate of incoming officers. These are all published in the March He also said Alabama is entitled to have three Delegates as well as the D.G.G. and A.G.

The Assistant General Elect, Ann Ferguson, announced that she will try to attend the General Congress as well.

The Secretary, Alan M. Davis, reported that he is working with Mary Helen, Ellie and Charlotte on updating the membership list and staying current with Plymouth.

Treasurer's Report: Due to the tornados, Ellie Lienau was unable to provide updated copies of her report, because of a massive power outage in North Alabama. Alan Davis provided copies that were as of the Board meeting.

- She reported that she mailed the check to purchase a brick for the Mayflower House Garden Project. On the brick will be inscribed "S.M.D. Alabama Lest We Forget 2011"
- She also reported that she had sent to Plymouth \$200.00 for the Pilgrim Hall Museum, we have a remaining balance of \$200.00 of the \$1,000.00 originally donated.
- She also said that she is still working with the IRS to get our society up-to-date but she did say that the State societies are considered an umbrella part of the General Society as a 501C organization, that she would not have to fill out the multitudinous amount of paperwork involved.
- She reported that she has collected dues from 107 members, she sent out 17 notices, 10 of them have paid, 7 have yet to pay, and there are 55 life members. She said that she sent out certified letters to those 7. 1 paid their dues, 1 paid their dues and resigned, 1 bad address, 4 received letters- no action. We have 12 Friends of the Society, their dues are \$20.00.
- She will send the yearly checks to the Colonies. Also she reported on the Colonies: Capital has 18 Regular Members; 4-Life. Gulf coast has 22 Regular members; 10 Life. Tennessee Valley has 22 Regular Members, 10 Life. She said as soon as she is able she will E-mail to the officers updated copies of the treasure's report. The Treasurer's report was voted on and approved as presented.

The **Historian**, Charlotte Hobson, reported that we a total of 6 new members, 2 additions as day before yesterday. 4 of the new members were listed in the newsletter. She passed around the yearbooks for everyone to look at. Mary Helen reported for the **Librarian**, Whitney Hobson, who is still working on purchasing the new yearbooks. She was due to graduate from the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, but due to the storms the graduation will be in August. She was named one of the Outstanding Seniors at the University. As some members know, Whitney is partially deaf. The University provided someone to help take notes in her classes and her fellow classmates discovered that she had better notes and wanted to copy hers.

The **Elder**, Alethea Cole-Tyson, reported that she had brought the Mayflower flag of Alabama that were purchased back in August of 1995 a U.S. flag was purchased but was donated to a local boy scout unit near Birmingham and that the Mayflower Flag was in fragile condition. Mary Helen said she will take the flag to the Archives and history to see what advice they could give on how to preserve it.

COMMITTEES: No Committee Reports

REPORTS OF COLONIES:

The Lt. Governor of the Capital Colony, Alan Davis, reported that they hope to meet in the latter part of June and announcements will be sent out in late May or early June. We will try to meet here or at another location.

The representative of the **Tennessee Valley Colony, Ellie** Lienau, reported that their meeting will be at the Marie Howard House who is an artist, next Saturday May the 7th.

Mary Helen reported for the **Gulf Coast Colony**, that their meeting will be on Saturday May 21st at 11:00 am o'clock at Felix's Fish Camp Restaurant with Rev. Dr. Sidney Leak, former Governor of the Alabama Society, and his subject will Richard Taylor, *"Pilgrim and President's son and Soldier Prince of Dixie"* a Confederate General, son of the 12th President of the United States, Zackary Taylor and Mayflower descendant.

Under Old Business:

- 1. Pam Pittman reported on the State Society's Website. It is up and running and they need more information from each of the Colonies so they can have separate links. James Kite said he visited the website and said they deserve a round of applause. (Which was given)
- 2. Mary Helen reported that the juniors have a Facebook page available.
- 3. Mary Helen reported that she had ordered the medals for the D.G.G and A.G. Officers and that they will be here by the end of May. They will match all the other General Society medals as these positions are general Society positions
- 4. It was reported that the donation (\$250.00) we gave to the flag pole at the new National Cemetery at the American Village a couple of years ago. The tribute that was placed in the Book o Rememberance included the State Society Seal and the words "Given in Tribute to all those Who Fight for Freedom Past, Present and Future by the Society of mayflower descendants in the State of Alabama"
- 5. Mary Helen reported on the ongoing push of the General Board of Assistant's to realign the current General Society's Constitution and By-laws together to make it easier to find information. What happens at the Congress will affect how our Society By-Laws should read and that we may have to update them in the future.

Under New Business:

1. The dates for the upcoming State meetings will be November 12th in Birmingham at the Club and the Spring/Annual meeting will be in Huntsville on May 5, 2012.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:05 o'clock p.m. Alan M. Davis, Secretary

A delicious meal was enjoyed and afterwards our speaker, **Governor General Judy Swan** said she was pleased to be in Alabama and that she had passed through Alabama before. She spoke on the "*Women of the Mayflower*". There were 56 men, 18 wives and 28 children and no single adult women on the trip from England. She told of the hardships they endured from the time they left England and that first winter in the New World. They spent 6 long months on the ship that included the voyage (2 months) and 4, while building safe places to live on land. Only 4 adult women survived the first winter. She also said that those women had more rights for their time. She also spoke on some of the programs of the General Society is working on today and some of the accomplishments that have been done during her tenure.

Trivia Question:

How many U.S. Presidents have been Mayflower Descendants?

Eight: John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Ulysses S. Grant, Zachary Taylor, James Garfield, Franklin D. Roosevelt, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush.

COMPACT DAY MEETING RESERVATIONS

	Annual Meeting and Buff 11 at 11:00 a.m. Board of		
The Club	ir at 11.00 a.m. Doard o	Tassistants at 7.50.	
	n Drive, Birmingham, Ala		
Cost - \$27.00 per	Yes, I plan to attend		
	I am bringing (Please inc		
Check en	closed	,	•
Return to be recei	ived by <u>Nov. 8, 2011</u> to:	Rich Hobson	
		7436 Old Barn Road	
		Montgomery, AL 36117	
Phone: 334-272-0	0051	Email: hobsonschoice@knology.net	
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		AA MAYFLOWER SOCIETY ABERSHIP RENEWAL FORM	
Annual Dues	s (\$25)		
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Friends of th	e Alabama Mayflower So	ociety Dues (\$20)	
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Indicate a colony	to affiliate with:		
CapitalC	Gulf CoastTennesse	e ValleyNone	
Send check payab	ole to Alabama Mayflowe	er Society to:	
Ellie Lienau, Trea			
12006 Northgate I Huntsville, AL 35			
municymic, AL 33	UIU		

The society can save the money of sending post cards if your dues are received by the end of the year.

Alabama Society of Mayflower Descendants Mary Helen Mahan, Governor P.O. Box 230893 Montgomery, AL 36123