



THE

# UTAH COMPACT

SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE STATE OF UTAH, VOL 49, NO. 2, FALL 2016



The First Thanksgiving  
by Jenny Browncombe

## Fall Banquet 2016

Mark your calendars now for **Wednesday, November 9, 6:30 pm**, and join us at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building for an evening of dining, pleasant company, and enlightenment. The Society of Mayflower descendants of Utah will be honored to hear from Wade Sperry, a man of international humanitarian work experience.

Sperry was born in Salt Lake City and grew up in Heber Valley. He served an LDS mission in Texas, and is currently married to Gayla. They have three children and two grandsons.

In pursuit of an advanced education and practical experience, he has graduated with degrees from Brigham Young University, Utah State University, and North Carolina State University. Sperry's tenure includes working as a professor of agriculture at the University of Tennessee.

Much of Sperry's international experience comes from working with the LDS Church in humanitarian services. Sperry has worked in over 50 different countries throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America, the South Pacific, Caribbean, and the Middle East.

We will be honored to hear stories and shared experiences that have shaped him and that reflect the ideals and principles of our Pilgrim ancestors who sought freedom in their quest for basic human rights and to live as a self-determining people.

## GSMD Scholarships

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) Scholarship Program is offering one of each: \$6000, \$4000, \$3000, and \$2000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are Mayflower descendants and will be attending a four-year college or university or two-year college.

In the spirit of the Mayflower settlers seeking to better themselves by moving to a new and uncharted world, special consideration will be given to applicants who have demonstrated a commitment to bettering themselves.



Applications are due by March 15, 2017. For requirements and application process, please visit the QR or URL: <https://www.themayflowersociety.org/news-events/scholarships>

## Mark Smedley



Mark Smedley, descendant of John Alden, has been elected to serve as our new governor. We enthusiastically look forward to the skills that Smedley will bring to our organization garnered from his vast experience in working in the law profession and service in his church.

Smedley is married to Lynette Oleson and currently runs his own law firm and practice in Heber City. Outside of his demanding work schedule, Mark can generally be found fishing, camping, hiking, coaching soccer, mountain biking, and doing yard work.

# Cindy Cooke

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**C**indy Cooke, our new treasurer and descendant of George Soule, has worked for 17 years in accounting, but is now wonderfully retired. In the words of Cindy, “I haven’t driven my husband nuts yet, So I guess I’m doing okay.”

Cindy’s hobbies include: sewing, leather work, beading, drawing with pen and ink and also pastels, and her newest and greatest hobby is machine embroidery, which pulls most of her hobbies together. Her favorite color is any shade of purple, which adorns her sewing room, and she says it looked great on her husband during the painting process!

Cindy has a Boston Terrier, which she absolutely adores, named Oreo. She grew up with Bostons and says she will never be without one again. He’s awesome.

Cindy grew up an Air Force brat, married and Air Force guy 38 years ago, and had three Air Force brats of her very own, all boys! She now has a daughter-in-law who is absolutely priceless, and who does a fabulous job of keeping her oldest son in line and is also an Air Force brat!

## The First Thanksgiving

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**J**ohn Carver, the first freely elected governor in the New World and deacon of their church, was stricken ill while planting their first crop of corn. He died shortly thereafter and the Pilgrims thus suffered the loss of one of their most respected and dedicated leaders.

William Bradford, then thirty-one years old, was elected to be their governor. Under his direction seeds brought from England and the corn and beans supplied by their now native American friends were planted. The humble colony anxiously awaited, in prospect of survival, the fruits of the good earth.

As the Fall of 1612 arrived, the Pilgrims began to gather in a small harvest. From both Bradford and Winslow we learn that the Pilgrims who survived the first winter had regained their health and each family had enough food. A day of celebration was declared not unlike days of thanksgiving which the Pilgrims and others had celebrated in Europe when a special blessing was experienced. Massasoit and some ninety of his tribe were invited to Plymouth for a feast which, according to Winslow, lasted three days. Later, of course, this feast and celebration came to be called the “First Thanksgiving.” The actual date of the festival is unknown.

Taken from: Pilgrims Then and Now, Gary L. Marks

## Welcome New Members!

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### Alden

Kevan Barton (Supplemental)

Betty Tucker

### Allerton

William Pope

### Bradford

Kirsten Howard

Brent Jackson

### Brewster

Sallie Shelton

### Cooke

Cindy Cooke (Supplemental)

### Howland

Colleen Densley

Mary Jo McQueen (Transfer)

Greg Neuberger



**Fall 2016 Dinner Reservation Form**  
**The Society of Mayflower Descendants**

*Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 6:30 pm*  
*The Empire Room, Joseph Smith Memorial Building*

***Cost Per Person: \$28.50 ~ Due by November 4, 2016***

Please PRINT the name of each attendee:	Member	Guest	Cost	Vegetarian Meal
_____	_____	_____	<b>\$28.50</b>	_____
_____	_____	_____	<b>\$28.50</b>	_____
_____	_____	_____	<b>\$28.50</b>	_____
_____	_____	_____	<b>\$28.50</b>	_____
_____	_____	_____	<b>\$28.50</b>	_____

If extra space is needed, use the same format as above on a separate page  
and include with check and this form.

**Note:** Reservations paid for at the door will cost \$42.75 per person

**Please make checks payable to:**

**Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Utah**

**Please mail payment with reservation form to:**

Cindy L. Cooke, Treasurer  
Utah Mayflower Society  
1576 West 6720 South  
West Jordan, Utah 84084-2435

For questions about your reservation, please email the treasurer at: [c\\_cooke@comcast.net](mailto:c_cooke@comcast.net)

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Editor  
Craig K. Pitts  
677 Cook St  
Ogden, Utah 84404