



THE UTAH COMPACT

UTAH SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS VOL 57, NO. 3, WINTER 2024

Utah Society Fall 2024 Banquet

The Utah Society met for its Fall 2024 Banquet at the Wheel Room at Gardner Village in West Jordan, Utah on Nov 8th. We had a wonderful dinner in a quaint setting. After conducting Society business and presenting new members with their certificates, the program was enjoyed by over 71 society members. We were enlightened by Society members who gave stories of some of our passenger ancestors. We want to hear more! This past year, the Utah Society celebrated our “Pilgrims to Pioneers” initiative. This included our past pilgrim ancestors’ descendants who crossed the plains as pioneers before the Transcontinental Railroad was completed. Lapel pins, medallions, challenge coins, and mugs with a newly created design were available for purchase. In the near future, there will be special certificates available for purchase as well. Fellow Mayflower Cousins had an enjoyable evening and look forward to meeting at the next banquet on May 2nd, 2025, at the Sons of Utah Pioneers Headquarters. Thank you for your attendance and best wishes for a beautiful and joyous Christmas and Happy New Year.



Jill Dewsnap spoke about Isaac Allerton



Diane Tarbox spoke about Stephen Hopkins



Eileen Johnson spoke about Francis Cooke

Thomas began his remarks recalling when he attended a family reunion. At the reunion he was asked to give the “Roll Call” of the families in attendance. He related this event to the contributions of William Bradford in his book *Of Plymouth Plantation*. In the book Bradford recorded the families and people who arrived in Plymouth on the Mayflower. Thomas then proceeded to give the following talk:

“Good evening, everyone. Today, I’d like to share with you the remarkable story of William Bradford, one of the most

significant passengers on the Mayflower and a key figure in early American history.



Thomas Portlock spoke about William Bradford

William Bradford was born in 1590 in Austerfield, England, and became one of the leading members of the Separatists—a religious group seeking freedom from the Church of England. His faith and dedication eventually led him to board the Mayflower in 1620, along with 101 other passengers, embarking on a perilous journey across the Atlantic in search of religious freedom and a new life in America.

Bradford was more than just a passenger—he became one of the central figures in the success of the Plymouth Colony. Soon after landing in what is now Massachusetts, the colony was met with severe challenges, including harsh winters, disease, and scarcity of food. In 1621, after the death of the colony's first governor, John Carver, Bradford was elected as governor. He would go on to serve as governor for over 30 years, playing a vital role in ensuring the survival of the colony through his strong leadership, diplomacy with Native Americans, and insistence on communal labor.

But beyond his political and administrative contributions, William Bradford's most enduring legacy lies in his written work, *Of Plymouth Plantation*. This detailed account, written over two decades, provides an invaluable window into the lives of the Mayflower passengers, their struggles, and their triumphs.

Bradford's account is more than just a personal memoir; it is a historical treasure. His writing includes a list of all the Mayflower passengers, grouping them into families and individuals. This cataloging gives us insight

into the social fabric of the group—who they were, how they were related, and the various familial ties that held the community together. Bradford wrote with a deep sense of duty to preserve the memory of these men, women, and children who risked everything for a chance at a better life.

Through his documentation, we learn about the significant families that made the journey: the Brewster's, the Winslow's, and the Alden's, among others. These family units were the backbone of the Plymouth Colony, and Bradford made sure to preserve their names for posterity. His lists detail not only who survived the journey, but who perished during the brutal first winter, painting a poignant picture of the human cost of the endeavor.

Bradford's writing style was direct, deeply religious, and filled with a sense of providence. He believed that their successful establishment of Plymouth Colony was part of a divine plan, and his work reflects this faith. Yet, he also documented the colony's hardships and conflicts, including the challenges they faced with food shortages, relationships with Native American tribes, and internal disputes within the group.

'All great and honorable actions are accompanied with great difficulties, and both must be enterprised and overcome with answerable courage.'

— William Bradford

Of Plymouth Plantation remains one of the most important early American texts. Without Bradford's painstaking documentation, much of what we know about the Mayflower journey and the early years of the Plymouth Colony would have been lost to time. His work not only preserves the history of the families on the Mayflower but also captures the broader experience of the Pilgrims—offering us a glimpse into their courage, their faith, and their perseverance.

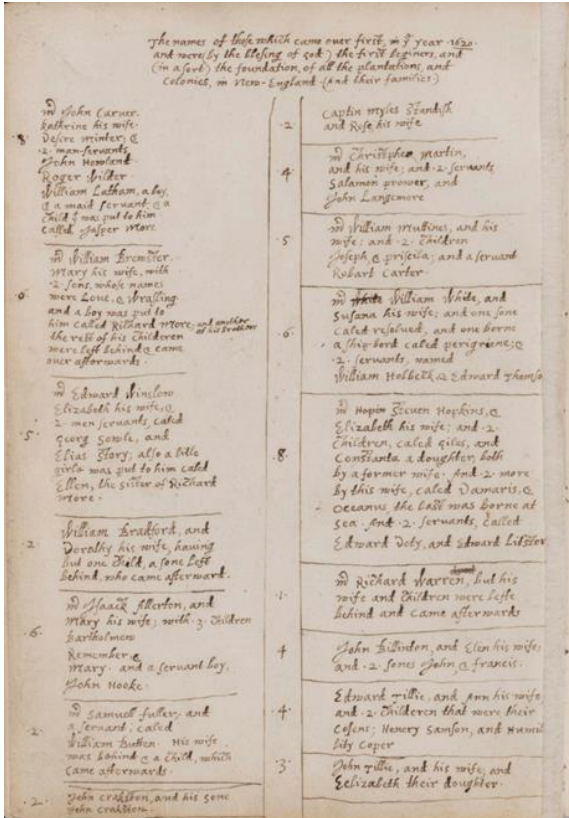
'Thus, out of small beginnings greater things have been produced by His hand that made all things of nothing, and gives being to all things that are; and, as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many...'

— William Bradford

In conclusion, William Bradford's leadership was vital to the survival of the Plymouth Colony, but his greatest gift to history was his writing. Through his detailed records, we

can connect with the Mayflower passengers as real people, and we are reminded of the sacrifices they made to lay the foundations of what would become the United States. His contribution ensures that the story of the Mayflower families will never be forgotten.

Thank You.”



Here is a copy of Williams Bradfords writing. It is the first page of the passenger list. Can you see his name. Richard Warren is also an ancestor.



Thomas at the Mayflower Society House during the 2017 Congress. Thomas was holding the cane of William Bradford, his 10th Great Grandfather.

Fall Banquet, continued

Kevan Barton spoke about Degory Priest and some of his descendants.

2024 New Utah Society Members

2024 Fall Banquet recipients

- Allison Petrucci- Alden
- David Rainey- Cooke
- Eileen Haynes- Alden
- Franz Bunnell- Hopkins
- James Goodman- Warren
- Jeanee Crane- Mauzy- Soule
- John “Alec” Alexander- Stephenson Hopkins
- Karla Porter-Bradford
- Layne Boesiger- Cooke
- Lisa Meaney- Hopkins



Thomas at the 2017 Congress in Plymouth.

- Marilyn Barrett- Billington
- Philip Homan- Billington
- Richard Holt Jr.- Alden
- Scott Sweeney- Hopkins
- Susan Deas- Alden
- Theodore Ashby Arnoldus- Priest
- Vickie Davis- Howland
- Wilma Lucille-Billington

2024 Spring Banquet recipients:

- Douglas Hardy- Priest
- Ellen Lechtenburg- Alden
- Galen O. Chatterton- Cooke
- Jeanne Kempe- George Soule
- Jennifer Moulder- Brewster
- Leslie Anderson- Thomas Rogers
- Mary Swan- Howland, Alden
- Michael Anderson- Stephen Hopkins
- Richard Sperry- Edward Fuller
- Roger “Dell” Fuller, Jr.- Edward Fuller
- Sandra Stock- Alden
- Suzanne Hardy- Hopkins
- Wilma Homan- Elinore Billington

2024 Supplementals:

- Galen O. Chatterton- Fuller
- Mary Jones- Brewster
- Wilma Homan- Francis Billington



Dell Fuller- Edward Fuller



Ellen Lechtenburg- John Alden and Sandra Dawn Stock- John Alden



Jeanne Anne Kempe- George Soule



John Alexander Stephenson IV- Stephen Hopkins and Scott Sweeney- Hopkins



Marilyn Barney Barrett- John Billington



Theodore Ashby Arnoldus - Degory Priest



Karla (Barker) Porter- William Bradford



Vicki Lane Dans- John Howland



Susan Rackham Deas- John Alden

General Society of Mayflower Descendants Insignia

What better way is there to show pride in your GSMD membership at Society events than to purchase GSMD Insignia items? The Membership Medal Starter Set offers the beautifully designed full-sized Member Medal and an Ancestor Bar Pin. A lovely customizable Miniature Membership Medal is also available, as well as men's and women's rings. To see all Members Only merchandise, check out the online shop at the GSMD website!

Lori Liljenquist joins the Utah Society Board as Secretary

Growing up, I lived in Whittier, California. My husband Rick and I met at BYU, where I went to college. We chose to live in the Utah County area after school. I have been a Realtor in Utah since 1993. Working with buyers and sellers in real estate is something I love. I have three kids and four grandchildren. We are lucky to be able to see all of them often because they live close. Along with the Mayflower Society (Richard Warren), I am a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the DUP. I believe it is important to learn about our ancestors and tell our loved ones about their lives.



RootsTech 2025 Daily Schedule

March 6–8, 2025. All Times listed in Mountain Time.

Day 1 - Thursday

- Classes 8:00 AM–5:30 PM
- Expo Hall 9:00 AM–7:30 PM
- General Session 11:00 AM
- Night at the Expo Hall 5:30–6:30 PM

Day 2 - Friday

- Classes 8:00 AM–5:30 PM
- Expo Hall 9:00 AM–6:00 PM
- General Session 11:00 AM
- Industry Highlight Forum 1:30 PM

Day 3 - Saturday

- Classes 8:00 AM–4:00 PM
- Expo Hall 9:00 AM–3:00 PM
- General Session 11:00 AM
- Family Discovery Session 1:30 PM
- Family Discovery Day 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

Please go to <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/> to sign up. If you would like to volunteer at the Mayflower

Society booth, please contact Utah Mayflower Society DGG Thomas Portlock at 801-949-6724.

Scholarships

While our Society focuses on lineage, we are also a non-profit organization and should give back to the community. We now have a payment button on the website where you can contribute towards scholarships for students related to our members. We urge you to contribute to the scholarship fund. Once it has been adequately funded, we will announce the qualifications for deserving students. Please consider a donation, we need your support.

We thank those members who have contributed to the scholarship fund. Just a reminder that this is tax deductible and a very worthy cause. Please contribute at utahmayflower.org on the payments page. We will announce the total contributed so far at the May banquet. We are stalled at \$420 in the scholarship fund and our goal is \$1000 by the Spring Banquet on May 2nd.

Notes From the Boat

From Lisa Pennington, Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Christmas in Plymouth!

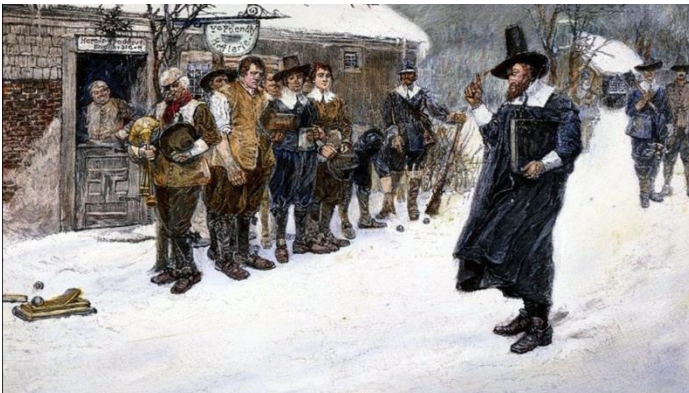
“You might think that the History of Christmas in Plymouth would be a short one, but Bradford's Journal is quite interesting on the subject. The first Christmas of 1620 was unremarkable. The Pilgrims had just landed at Plymouth on Dec. 22, and they needed to build a common house as soon as possible to house the many Pilgrims who were gravely ill.

The new year would bring a 54-year alliance with the Pokanokets which would be the longest treaty in American history between Europeans and Native Americans. Squanto and others would teach the Pilgrims how to grow corn, and the Pilgrims and Pokanokets would celebrate with a three-day harvest feast in the fall.

By Christmas, 1621, conditions were very different. The colony had 37 new members who had arrived on the Fortune the month before. Most were young single men who were not Separatists. Because they had brought no

supplies, the colonists were put on half rations. There was not enough housing to go around, so the single men were housed wherever a roof could be found. Everyone had to work harder to build more houses and grow more food.

William Bradford recorded in his journal that ‘most of this new company desired to excuse themselves from working on Christmas, saying it was against their consciences to work that day.’ So Bradford told them he would excuse them. But when he came home at Noon from the fields, ‘he found them in the street, at play, openly! Some pitching the barre and some at stool ball and such-like Sports.’ So he took away their bats and balls and told them ‘it was against his conscience that they should play while others worked. If it was a matter of devotion, then they should keep to their houses, but there would be no gaming or reveling in the streets.’ So who were these revelers? The ‘new company’ he singled out consisted of Robert Hicks, Philip Delano, Edward Bumpass, William Bassett, Thomas Prence, and others. Any one of these could have been a stool ball player! Bradford noted that these revelries were never attempted again—‘at least openly.’



To be fair to Bradford, he did not think this was a serious breach of behavior. He wrote that the story was ‘rather of mirth than of weight.’ Unlike Massachusetts Bay, To be fair to Bradford, he did not think this was a serious breach of behavior. He wrote that the story was ‘rather of mirth than of weight.’ Unlike Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth never formally outlawed the celebration of Christmas. The Bay Colony banned it in 1659 and fined revelers 5 shillings! They also prohibited feasting or decorating. Churches had to be closed, and businesses had to stay open. In fact, Christmas wasn’t officially recognized until 1870!

One Christmas tradition the Pilgrims kept was that of giving charity to the poor. In the 1627 cattle distribution, the ‘Red Cow’ was specifically designated for the ‘poor of the

colony.’ It is wonderful to remember that even though they had little themselves, they never forgot those who had less.

These are some of the stories we hope to tell at the Mayflower Meetinghouse when it’s completed. To hear more about the Pilgrims’ childhood Christmases and how Christmas was celebrated in later years, watch our newest video on our [YouTube Channel](#).”

What Mayflower Membership Means

Many of our members are in the “Active Member in Good Standing” category, meaning that their dues need to be paid by December each year. Those members who are seeking to transfer in or out must also be an active member in Good Standing to do so.

From our Treasurer

Cousins: We are currently in the dues cycle. If your dues haven't been paid by now, please contact the Treasurer to pay your dues or resign. Otherwise, you will need to be dropped for nonpayment. Also, please pay your annual dues only when you receive an invoice or after checking with me. Several members have paid dues unnecessarily and are at least two years ahead of schedule. I can refund the overpayment to your credit card within 180 days; I just need the expiration date of the card used. I have emailed the member when the duplicate payments are made, but I don't always receive a response. I would appreciate your cooperation with this request.

Thank you,
Eileen Johnson, Treasurer

