



# NUTMEG GRATINGS

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Connecticut

Founded in 1896

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## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

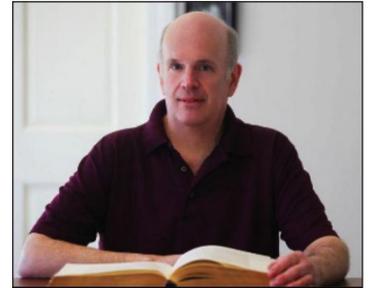
By the time that you receive this newsletter, we will be approaching spring. I am happy to say that I am glad that winter is over as cold weather is not my favorite time of the year. I will be happy to get my greenhouse fired up and my seedlings started for planting my gardens in May.

Our April meeting will be held at the "Woodwinds" at 29 School Ground Road, in Branford, CT. If you wish to make a reservation, the form is on page 15 of this newsletter, or go to our website at [www.CTMayflower.org](http://www.CTMayflower.org). The form is at the top of the page. I was unable to book the Chowder Pot for this meeting, as it was already booked, but we will be returning there for our October 29, 2022 annual meeting.

The April meeting is when we award our three annual scholarships to well-deserved students to help aid them with their college expenses. Please come meet these students and help us wish them well as they go off to college.

We have openings on our board and our committees. We are looking for someone to replace our Elder, Rev. Jean Knapp, who retired at our last meeting and has since passed away. We are also looking for members to help with the following committees: Publicity, Programs, Insignia and Hospitality. If you would like to get actively involved in your society, this is the way to get started. Please email me if you want to chat about how to get involved.

I would like to remind all of you who have children or grandchildren that we offer a Junior Affiliate membership which helps to get our youngsters interested in our *Mayflower* ancestors and the impact



that the pilgrims had on the founding of our country. The Junior Affiliate membership entitles the member to apply for regular membership at age 18, without having to pay an application fee, (presently \$200) The cost to enroll your child or grandchild is only \$50.00. A display with applications will be available at the April meeting, or you can email Judi Paige for more information.

Our program at the April luncheon meeting is on the topic of Life in Eastern Woodlands, pre-contact to 1620 that you won't want to miss. Please refer to page 15 for details and to reserve your place at the meeting.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our April meeting. If this is your first meeting, please let us know so we can help you get acquainted.

Sincerely,  
Gregory Evan Thompson, Governor

*Nutmeg Gratings* is published three times per year to inform the membership of items of interest and to educate members and the general public about the Mayflower Society. Historical and genealogical material with supporting bibliographies is also presented. The fact that an article appears in *Nutmeg Gratings* does not in any way reflect that newsletter contributors, volunteers, or the Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendants guarantees the historical accuracy of any information contained herein.

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## Welcome New Members - CT Mayflower Society!

### JOHN ALDEN

Gerald H. Edison III, S. Glastonbury CT  
Raymond E. Morin, North Franklin CT  
Laura M. M. Raisanen, Southport CT

### ISAAC ALLERTON

Marjorie J. C. Brown, Chester CT  
Sandra J. C. Gaszek, Wilmington VT  
James W. Hays, Jr., Chester CT  
Susan J. C. Kopycinski, Cromwell CT

### WILLIAM BRADFORD

Colin E. Armour, Newington CT

### WILLIAM BREWSTER

Sherri-Ann Hughson, Newark NY  
Gregory C. Lane, East Hartford CT  
Sarah W. Waltz, South Thomaston ME  
Jonathan L. White, Wilton CT

### EDWARD DOTY

Nancy J. C. Shlaes, Homewood, IL

### FRANCIS EATON

John A. Lee, Sr., Westbrook CT

### EDWARD FULLER

Stephen Michaels, Franklin WI  
Nancy L. T. Whitney, Hamden CT

### STEPHEN HOPKINS

Marie Haven Young Bates, Cos Cob CT  
Deborah L. P. Oborski, Manchester CT  
Theodore W. Smith Jr., Waterbury CT

### JOHN HOWLAND

Debra J. S. Booth, Brooklyn CT  
Julia Harding Daniel, Darien CT  
Janette B. Lange, New Haven CT  
Suzanne J. Matteson, Pawcatuck CT

Ellen Ravens-Seger, East Granby CT  
J. Robert Tuneski, Waterford CT

### THOMAS ROGERS

Dodge W. Dutcher, Cross River NY  
Ashley N. Newton, Nevada City CA

### GEORGE SOULE

Brandy L. L. Ciraldo, S. Glastonbury CT

### MYLES STANDISH

Amanda Dew, Milford CT

### JOHN TILLEY

Barbara R. A. Spada, Cromwell CT

### RICHARD WARREN

Jordan E. Barnes, Simsbury CT  
Brenden J. Cassada, Bristol CT  
William E. Damsky, Jr., Hamden CT  
Linda L. Hebenstreit, Soubury CT

## In Remembrance of CT Mayflower Society Members Who Have Recently Passed

*Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.* Matthew 5:4

Frederic Carlough, 23 February 2022, age 89

Lorraine Driscoll, 25 January 2022, age 93

Virginia Hopper, 17 January 2022, age 94

Margery Izard, 24 January 2022, age 89

Jean Knapp, 24 January 2022, age 90

Catharine Miller, 5 January 2022, age 93

### Thank you, Margery Izard and Jean Knapp, for your leadership in the CT Mayflower Society

Margery Elaine (Lyman) Izard was born on December 12, 1932, the daughter of Edward and Dorothy (Prew) Lyman, and raised in Hinsdale, Massachusetts. Margery was a graduate of Springfield Hospital School of Nursing. Margery later earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Trinity College. Margery and her husband, Mark W. Izard, started their family in New York City where Margery worked, and Mark completed medical school. In 1959, the couple relocated to the Hartford, Connecticut area. For many years Margery was very active in the Connecticut Mayflower Society, serving as the Assistant State Historian, helping prospective members research their family genealogies and connect with their Mayflower ancestors.

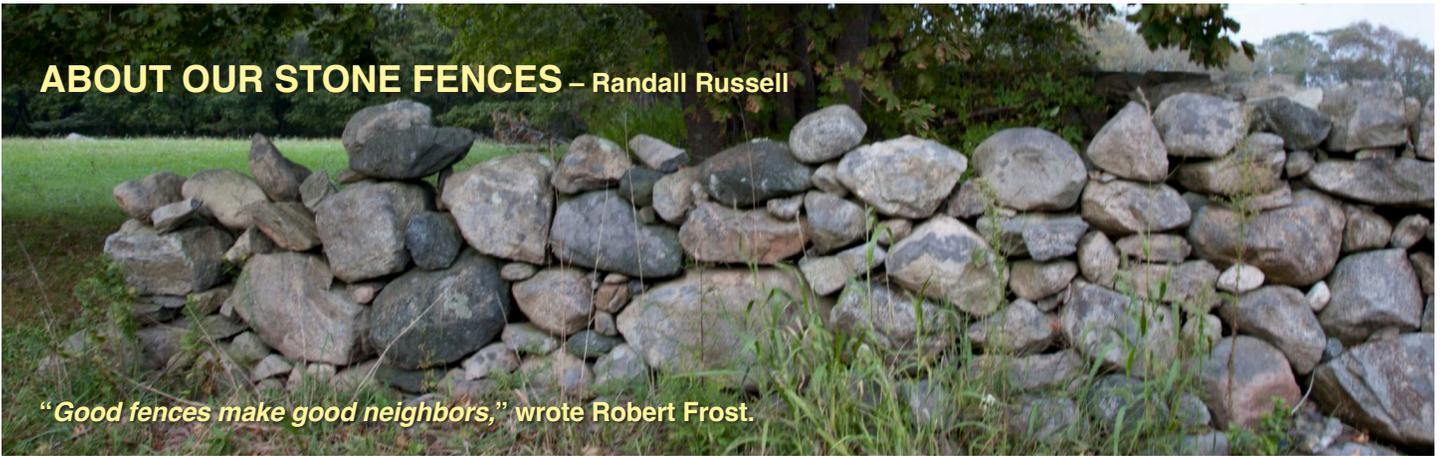
Jean (Cushman) Knapp was born on 24 January 1922, the daughter of Robert and Gertrude (Stevenson) Cushman. Raised in Mystic, Connecticut, she was a graduate of Mitchell College. Jean became an ordained minister in 1982 and founded Faith Fellowship Ministries with her husband, Peter Van Arkenburgh Knapp, where they pastored for over thirty years. She served as Elder of the Connecticut Mayflower Society and the Connecticut State Farm for Women in Niantic for 30 years. She is remembered for her thoughtful and reflective invocations and benedictions, providing inspiration to hundreds of CT Mayflower Society members.



### Did you forget to Renew Your Membership? Do it today!

If you aren't sure that your dues are up to date, email Membership Chair Joan Prentice, [jowp32@hotmail.com](mailto:jowp32@hotmail.com) about your status. You can pay dues online at [www.CTMayflower.org](http://www.CTMayflower.org) or you can pay your dues by check, payable to CT Mayflower Society. Mail dues to CT Mayflower Society, 32 Nichols Lane, Waterford CT 06385.

## ABOUT OUR STONE FENCES – Randall Russell



*“Good fences make good neighbors,” wrote Robert Frost.*

In his poem “Mending Wall”, Robert Frost regales us with metaphors about taciturn Yankees, boundaries, and relationships. For those of us that are not as poetically inclined, it is simply a story about two adjoining neighbors who have an annual tradition of walking on their respective sides of the stone fence separating their properties. Ostensibly their purpose is to repair the winter damage done by frost heaves and ice. They replace fallen stones and re-chink gaps left by unseen forces. While not much gets communicated, we sense that they find something reassuring and social about this rite of spring. It’s as if they are thinking, “We’re both still alive and the natural rhythms go on.”

According to Robert Thorson, a landscape geologist at the University of Connecticut, “These walls are damn near everywhere” in the forests of New England. He estimates that there are more than 100,000 miles of abandoned or unused stone walls in the area, enough to circle the globe four times. He feels there may have been a total of as many as 240,000 miles of stone walls at one time.

For those of us who have been surprised to come across stone walls while hiking through the middle of the forest, we have to remember that all this land was once cleared. These walls once enclosed fields and farms all over New England. By 1850, our region was 70% deforested with farms everywhere. With the onset of westward expansion and industrialization, farms were abandoned and the process of reforestation began. We now see seventy-five-foot oak trees where there was nothing but pasture at one time. In Connecticut there are only a few stands of old growth timber remaining.

We know where this abundance of wall building material came from. When the Ice Age ended about 12,500 years ago, the mile-high Laurentide ice sheet which had once covered New England began receding northward. In its wake the ice sheet left behind billions of tons of glacially-borne boulders, cobbles, and stones that had melted out of the ice.

To understand more about stone walls, we have to look at the relationship between them and the other most prevalent natural fencing material. Wood. When the Pilgrims needed

to erect a pen for their chickens or keep critters out of their gardens, they most assuredly did not build stone walls. Wood was everywhere and available by merely picking it up. The first fences were made of tulip, cedar, and chestnut. Oak, by contrast, was not as durable and might last only 6-8 years. The fences were often constructed in the stacked zigzag rail fashion still seen in some parts today. The stockade at Plymouth was built of wooden palisades and boards.

In early Plymouth, people did not have beasts of burden such as oxen and plow horses. Iron was scarce and traditional European methods of plowing fields had not yet been established. Colonists grew corn, beans, and squash in the same sustainable fashion as their Wampanoag neighbors. When they encountered stones, they merely planted around them. Later when large draft animals became available, the deep plowing methods utilized back in England became prevalent.

As more livestock appeared, vast amounts of land had to be cleared for grazing and hay production. The beasts that had been acquired needed enormous amounts of feed, particularly in winter when there was nothing to graze on. They were an important new source of hard specie and currency for people who had hitherto been limited to bartering for the things they needed. Forest land receded, often with very negative results, a topic that merits attention of its own.

The Indians had coexisted with nature, moving to fishing and hunting sites as the seasons progressed and toward more sheltered places after the corn was harvested and cold weather set in. After 8 or 10 years of use, they abandoned their corn fields and moved to alternate sites. As a result they never totally used up the resources that they had availed themselves of for thousands of years. Their concept of land ownership was very fluid, most often linked to the gathering of resources. White settlers, by contrast, had been taught to manage single plots of land, thereby depleting finite resources over time.

Colonists in America used enormous amounts of wood. They favored straight oak pieces for house construction. Boards were used to construct furniture. Houses of that era could easily consume fifty cords of wood to build. An un-insulat-

ed home with a large open hearth was very difficult to heat. In contrast to the Native Americans and their brethren back home, English colonists burned wood as though they had an inexhaustible supply to rely upon. We have to bear in mind that they did not have iron stoves available for more efficient heating. Visiting Europeans were astonished by the vast quantities of wood consumed on this side of the Atlantic. They could not believe that fires burned in every room, all day and night for nearly six months every year. Back in England large tracts of forest had long since been decimated.

William Cronin tells us that the average colonial home probably consumed thirty to forty cords of firewood each year, resulting in the annual clearing of approximately one acre of forest per household. Cronin helps us visualize individual household consumption as a pile of wood four feet high, four feet wide, and as long as a football field. By 1800, far more wood was being used for fires than for construction. When calculating the ever increasing number of households over the centuries, one merely needs to “do the math” in order to see what was happening to the wood supply.

How was one to build fence when it was no longer practical to gather the preferred material cheaply and easily? Frost heaves and deep-plowing inevitably brought millions of stone glacial deposits to the surface. The stone removal that had started as a basic farm chore merged with the practical compulsion to memorialize one’s boundaries. As rock was painstakingly cleared, it was typically dragged off on a “stone boat” by a team of draft animals. For practical reasons the stones usually ended up along boundary lines where they were eventually stacked. Moving the stone was usually far more difficult than building the actual wall. Unlike the nicely stratified stone we use in residential landscaping today, most of the stones used throughout New England were somewhat rounded chunks of glacial rubble.

When we go back and reconsider the estimated 100,000 to 240,000 miles of stone walls throughout the region, we have to be in awe of the number of man-hours involved gathering and stacking 20 to 50 pound rocks all day. Robert Thorsen speaks of “two-handers”, the stones most typically used in wall construction. Mavor and Dix tell us that a competent wall builder could erect twenty four to sixty four feet of stone

fence a day, as long as the stone had been pre-gathered and was ready to put in place. They tell us that a stone fence required about 180 common-sized stones per rod (sixteen and a half feet). They further reckon that a builder working a nine-hour day, placing a stone a minute, could build three rods (forty –six and a half feet) of fence per day. This would, of course, depend on the slope of the terrain and other factors. The amount of labor and energy required to build these ubiquitous landmarks was enormous.



Stone walls occurred later than many of us imagined, emerging mainly in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries when wood was being rapidly depleted and eventually being replaced by coal as a heat source. Because the average wall was probably only thigh high, it may not have been the most practical means of penning animals, other than cows. More agile critters such as sheep and pigs could easily get over them. There were certainly taller stone fences, however, that were specifically erected for penning purposes.

The fact that Native Americans did not fence or continuously occupy their property was often used as a lame rationale for its later expropriation. The Indians would probably have agreed with Robert Frost when he said that, “Something there is that doesn’t love a wall.” Our ancestors in New England, on the other hand, were compelled to have their fences.

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## My Mayflower Journey – Dayna Lee Drake-Walker

My Mayflower journey began in December 2017 when a DNA-match cousin shared information about our descent from Mayflower ancestors, William Brewster, John Tilley, Joan (Hurst) Rogers, Elizabeth Tilley and John Howland. No one in my family knew about our Mayflower connections including my father who was in their direct line, the result of Brewster and Howland descendants marrying. After learning about the DNA connection, I picked up and completed the paper trail and was welcomed into the Mayflower fold in May 2018 with the Brewster connection, in August 2018 with the Howland connection and, again, in May 2020 with the Tilley family connection.

Fast forward ... I became the steward for several family grave sites in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Those actions made me wonder about further honoring my ancestors. Since no one knew about our Mayflower connections, placing a plaque for all to see on my parents' headstone seemed appropriate and maybe even a bit boastful!

My first step was to contact the town's Cemetery Commissioner to gain permission for the project. Finding nothing in the cemetery bylaws that prevented such action, the Commissioner approved my plan saying that she was also very interested to see the completed project and said that it would be the only one in the cemetery!

I consulted with my husband to see if we could install the plaque ourselves. The cemetery was in New Hampshire, 150 miles away, the cemetery had no power source, and we lacked the necessary tools to cut into granite.

We contacted one of our Connecticut friends for advice, someone who happens to be a cemetery superintendent. He had personally installed and overseen installations of other non-Mayflower plaques and suggested we check them out. Given all the information we collected, we decided to leave our tribute and investment in the hands of the professionals whose guarantee would cover any headstone damage that might occur.

Next, I contacted the same monument company from whom our family had purchased several granite headstones. Al-

though the mounting of a Mayflower grave marker was a first for them, they had the experience and equipment and were up for the challenge and would do the job for us.

They gave us two options, both expensive. The first option secured the plaque to the stone using hardware that came with the plaque. It would be permanent, but not set the plaque into the stone. The second option included cutting and sinking the plaque into the stone for greater protection and security. The plaques are solid bronze and are enticing to those who would disrespect cemeteries by stealing. This option was well over two times the cost of the first option. I chose the first option because of the cost and because I knew the integrity of the company first-hand. I trusted their work and knew that the plaque would be secure.



I ordered the plaque from the Mayflower Shop members-only site for a non-member lineal descendant, my father. They checked my papers and national number to verify my father's descent and approved the purchase. The plaque was sent directly to the monument company along with pictures of my parents' stone and where I wanted the plaque placed. The company completed the work, and the stone is beautiful.

My Mayflower discovery occurred after my parents passed away and I often wonder what they would think about it all. It opened the door to finding other ancestors, especially lots of Winthrop Fleet Great Migration folks. My family has been here a very long time! Who knew?

I continue to honor my ancestors, their history and their perseverance by passing along what I know to my family. My first birthday present to my grand niece was a genealogical memory book called *Eva's Story* which was based on her namesakes - her mother's great-grandmother and her father's great-grandmother. I'm a keeper of memories, a researcher, an historian, a student, a seeker, a discoverer, a protector, a steward...a descendant of Mayflower passengers!

My deep appreciation and grateful thanks go to Mary Brown who encouraged me to share this experience and to Marjorie "Midge" Hurtuk who guided me through the application process that brought me officially into the Mayflower family!

## Denison Doll House – Margaret MacDonough

*The Dennison Doll House is a gift to the Saybrook Historical Society from Jennifer Cody, great granddaughter of Cora Denison Buck. CT Mayflower Society member Mary MacDonough, Cora's granddaughter, is pictured right with the doll house and has many fond memories of playing with the doll house.*

The original owner of the doll house, Peter Halket Du Vernet (1836-1886), an agent for the Cunard Line. Mr. Du Vernet commissioned one of the Cunard ship's carpenters to build a doll house for his three daughters.

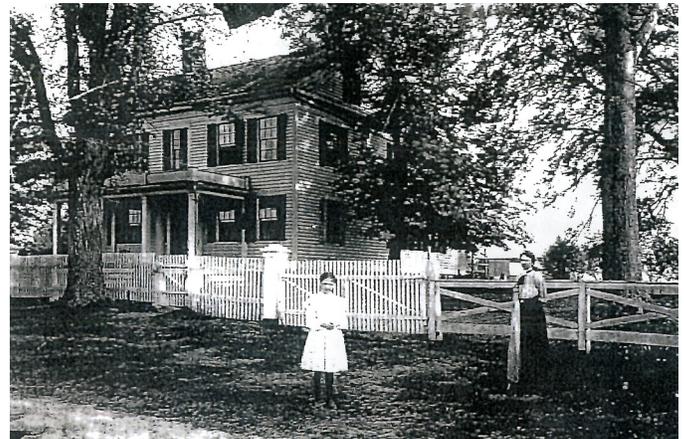
The model for the doll house is not known, but it may have been based on the house at 445 Beacon Street in Boston where Mr. Du Vernet died in 1886. The resemblance of the doll-house to 445 Beacon Street, shown right today, is certainly remarkable.

After Mr. Du Vernet's death his widow, Mary Denison (Whittlesey) Du Vernet, returned with her children to her hometown, Old Saybrook, CT. The doll house came with them and was used by subsequent generations of the Du Vernet, Bushnell, and Denison families.

Cora and Louise Denison, below right, played with the doll house. The sisters married brothers, Winthrop and Edward Buck, of Wethersfield and the doll house came to Wethersfield where their children, grandchildren, and friends enjoyed the house. Katherine Denison (Buck) Cody was one of those descendance who played with the doll house. In time, Edward Cody, Katherine Denison Buck's husband, restored the doll house for use by their grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The upright piano is the only piece of doll house furniture original to the doll house. Other pieces were bought or made by members of the family over the years. During Wethersfield's Tercentenary Celebration, the doll house was included on a horse-drawn wagon.

**Editor's note:** Do you have a story to share about a family heirloom, about your own "Mayflower Journey", about early New England life? I encourage each of you to share your stories and knowledge with fellow members through a newsletter article of your own. You may, if you wish, submit an article anonymously but please site sources and include pictures if you have them. If you don't feel comfortable writing a piece yourself, send your ideas for articles to newsletter editor Kathy Simmons at [kmsartwrk@cox.net](mailto:kmsartwrk@cox.net).



Cora and Louise Denison in front of their Saybrook, Connecticut home, photo courtesy of Dr. Daniel Wood of Woolwich, Maine.

**NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION REMINDER:** Please note that *Nutmeg Gratings* is moving to an electronic format for ease of distribution, improved outreach, and significant cost savings.

Members of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Connecticut who have provided their email addresses will no longer receive a paper copy of *Nutmeg Gratings* via U.S. mail.

If you have not yet provided an e-mail address, send your email address to Joan Prentice, [jowp32@hotmail.com](mailto:jowp32@hotmail.com).

NOTE: Past newsletters, including this newsletter, are available on our website: [www.CTMayflower.org](http://www.CTMayflower.org).



Stay current with events at the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in Plymouth with a subscription to The Pilgrim Press.

Go to <https://themayflowersociety.org/footer/thepilgrimpress/>



*For eleven days in February of 1717, New England was devastated by four major snowstorms, one after the other in rapid succession. The snow drifted and covered houses, livestock starved where they stood, and roads, such as they were, remained impassable for weeks. For six weeks, three to five-foot snowpack buried the landscape. Many saw it as a sign from God.*

The Great Snow is the best-known snow event from the colonial period based on recorded accounts, newspaper reports, and sermons. Historical climatologists identify the years from 1675 to 1715 as one of global cooling and one of the coldest phases of the Little Ice Age. Cotton Mather reported 16-foot drifts and single-story houses “totally covered with ye Snow.” John Winthrop, great grandson of Governor John Winthrop, reflected from New London, “the sea was in mighty ferment.”

Benjamin Webb of Braintree, Massachusetts recorded the following in his diary:

Monday, February 18: “a great Snow above mid legg”

Thursday, February 21: “A Terrible Storm of Snow”

Sunday, February 24: “another Extraord: Storm Snow – heaps upon heaps”

Thursday, February 28: “Snowd all day”

As the storms approached and throughout the early days of the Great Snow, religious leaders soldiered on despite the weather. In some cases, services were suspended or delayed. Rev. Ebenezer Pemberton of Boston, Massachusetts died on February 13, 1717. His interment, planned for Saturday, February 16, was delayed due to “a great Storm of Snow and Sleet” on that day. On February 18, the good man’s burial proceeded despite the onset of the Great Snow and the difficulties of snow removal.

In time, even the most stalwart individuals were forced to give way to the realities of the relentless onslaught of storm days. At Chilmark on Martha’s Vineyard, Reverent William Homes wrote, “it was so [stormy] on the Lord’s Day that nobody could go to the meeting house to attend the publicke worship of God.” New London minister Eliphalet Adams recorded, “The 24<sup>th</sup> was also another as furious a Storme of Snow as the first. There was not Meeting at ye Church the Storme was so hard & Violent.”

In the catastrophic aftermath of the storm, ministers of the day saw God’s hand at work. Eliphalet Adams delivered a special sermon on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> noting that the snowstorms might, “seem wild and furious unto us, yet are they perfectly under the Divine Government.” Many viewed the extremely foul weather as a collective punishment or omen.

Recovery was slow and the snowpack lasted well into April. From Harvard College, “The Scholars began to leave ye Coll[ege] for want of Wood,” a reminder that colonists depended on the delivery of firewood to keep their homes and public buildings habitable. Travel conditions were miserable as the snow turned to muddy slush and ice, creating hazardous conditions for wheeled vehicles. Horses or oxen risked serious injury on the treacherous roads. No all-weather radials in 1717 for carts or beasts.

The Great Snow interfered with postal delivery but did not stop it. Postal service was a few decades old by the time of the Great Snow and, under normal conditions, there was year-round postal delivery. The *Boston News Letter* reported that a New Hampshire postal messenger appeared in Boston March 8 “with his Mayle and Snow Shoes.”

Domesticated animals suffered disproportionately from deep snow. It was common practice to let domesticated animals roam late winter meadows, expecting that infrequent and shallow snowfalls would melt quickly enough to allow the animals to forage. The unusually severe snow event of 1717 prevented farmers from reaching their herds to provide relief. Thousands of a cattle, sheep, and horses became disoriented in the storms and were blocked from their usual foddering places. Horses were among the dead animals found frozen upright in the snow. In some cases, entire herds of cattle and sheep died in the extreme conditions.

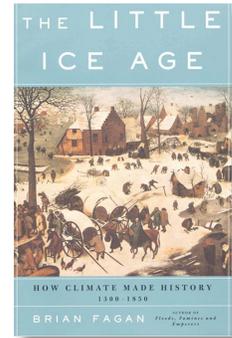
Fruit orchards suffered indirectly where animals could find access to them. As the snow hardened, sheep could walk on the crust and as Cotton Mather put it, “damnify” the trees. But even without animal damage, the melting snow froze and when it settled, it could split the wood of fruit trees.

## Book Discussion Group – Mary Brown

Your book worm suggests *The Little Ice Age* by Brian Fagan. This book relates the climate changes from 1300 to 1850 and how this defined the economic and social impacts on civilization that contributed to the Pilgrim's arrival in Plimoth. This is not a novel and is probably most comfortably read chapter by chapter. The presentation of the information is easily digested by the reader. We will schedule a book discussion in the next newsletter to allow time to obtain and read this work.

If you are interested in joining the book discussion group, please contact Mary Brown at [mbrown06239@gmail.com](mailto:mbrown06239@gmail.com) or call her at (860)774-3458.

*The Little Ice Age* by Brian Fagan is available in paperback from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [BarnesandNoble.com](https://www.barnesandnoble.com). It is also available as tablet downloads.



Dead livestock forced the colonists to rely more heavily than usual upon wild game for food. Deer can withstand freezing temperatures well although a certain amount of winterkill occurs even in normal conditions. Deep and long-lasting snow, however, presents a real challenge to deer. When snow depths pass a threshold of 27 inches for four to eight weeks, the physical condition of white-tailed deer deteriorates significantly due to hunger. When an icy layer forms on snowpack, the legs of deer are obstructed and lacerated leaving them vulnerable to wolves, dogs, and other predators that can scamper over the hard surface to their weakened prey. As a result of the severely reduced deer population, Massachusetts took drastic measures on February 13, 1718 and banned deer hunting. Deer hunting was banned for nearly four years to let the population recover.

The Great Snow also devastated the wild turkey population, another protein supplement favored by colonists. In deep snow conditions, wild turkeys roost in softwood trees near farmlands and pastures. As snowstorms with high winds subside, turkeys can scratch through shallow snow to feed on pasture grass or seeds within the manure of domestic stock. The risk, however, is that foraging in open spaces leaves them vulnerable to predators. If turkeys are stranded in deep snow drifts, they fall prey to predators, of both the animal and human variety. It is likely that the health of turkeys who survived the Great Snow and spring would have been undermined, reducing the birds' ability to hatch eggs and rear young.

The colonists did not understand how their own land-use patterns had increased the effects of such a devastating snowstorm. Over the course of a century, New England colonists made extensive modifications to the landscape, clearing vast swaths of land to build and heat their homes and to pasture their domestic stock. They cleared entire forests, rather than follow the practice of Native Americans who used fire to clear only the forest undergrowth.

The modified landscape allowed the wind to whip across the fields increasing wind chill temperatures and allowing the accumulation of prodigious snow drifts. There were few vertical structures over large expanses to prevent extensive and damaging snow drifts. Wind-blown snow flattened the landscape, filling in roads and natural depressions in the landscape. A history of Eastham, Massachusetts reported that around Reverend Samuel Treat's house, "The wind blew with violence and whilst the grounds around his house were left entirely bare, the snow was heaped up in the road to an uncommon height."

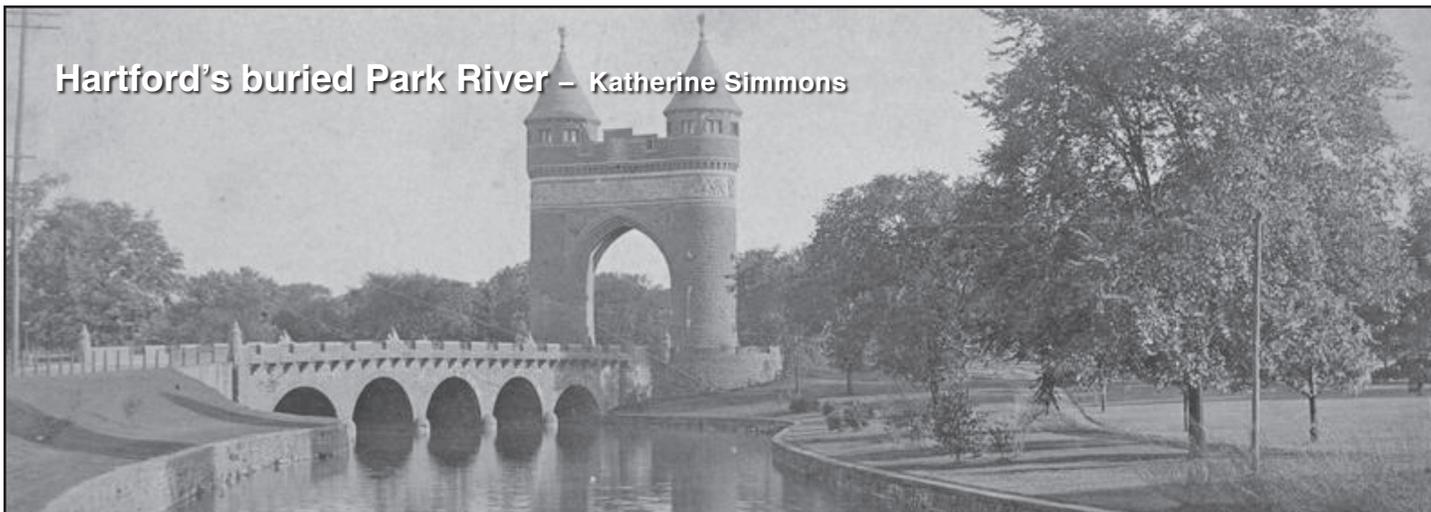
As April arrived with massive snowbanks still evident throughout the landscape, public fasts were organized in an appeal to Divine intervention and mercy. Massachusetts Governor Samuel Shute proclaimed a day of fasting and prayer calling on God to "bless the Springing of the Year."

Spring did return and our ancestors surely welcomed the return of warm weather, humbled as they were by the power of New England weather.

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Thomas Wickman. 2017. *Winter Ecology: Insights from Biology and History* (2017). *Northeastern Naturalist*, Vol. 24, Special Volume 7, pp. H81-H114. Published by: Eagle Hill Institute in collaboration with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Northeastern Naturalist*.  
[www.Wikipedia.com](http://www.Wikipedia.com), [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com), and [www.DayoftheWeek.org](http://www.DayoftheWeek.org).

## Hartford's buried Park River – Katherine Simmons



*When Thomas Hooker and his band arrived at Suckiaug, now known as Hartford, Connecticut, in 1635, a river ran through it which the founders of the Hartford Colony called Little River to differentiate it from the much larger Connecticut River. Today, most people are hardly aware that Little River is still there, buried under the streets of Hartford.*

The early settlement at Hartford developed quickly along the banks of Little River. In those early days, the river proved a convenient location for Matthew Allyn's mill and John Biddle's tan yard. It is easy to see how the river and the meeting house yard influenced the 1640 layout of house lots and thoroughfares along its banks, a layout that is still evident today for anyone familiar with the streets of present-day Hartford. See the map on page 11.

Over the centuries, the river had several names. Mill River later became Hog River, because of the pigs kept in farms along some stretches of it. As one might expect, the Hog River became horribly polluted and smelled dreadful. In response, Hartford's minister, Horace Bushnell (1802–1876) led the effort to clean it up, building a new park along its banks, aptly named Bushnell Park, and giving Hog River a new name, the Park River.

Despite the beautification effort, the river remained a magnet for trash and garbage made worse by seasonal flooding that underscored the fact that the river was a public health issue.

The floods of 1936 and 1938 brought the issue to a head. Heavy rains over a two-week period in March of 1936 caused the Connecticut River to rise 38 feet above its banks. Flooding caused by a hurricane in September of 1938 was equally catastrophic with the river rising 35 feet above its banks.

The decision was made to bury the river. The Army Corps of Engineers rerouted nine miles of the river into a massive concrete tunnel under Hartford at a cost of \$100 million during the 1940s.

Today, parts of the Park River remain above ground where it runs through the University of Hartford campus, past the UConn Law School campus and to Farmington Avenue near the Mark Twain House. From there, the river disappears under the city, running under the State Capitol grounds and Bushnell Park before emptying into the Connecticut River where the Whitehead Highway connects with Interstate-91.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

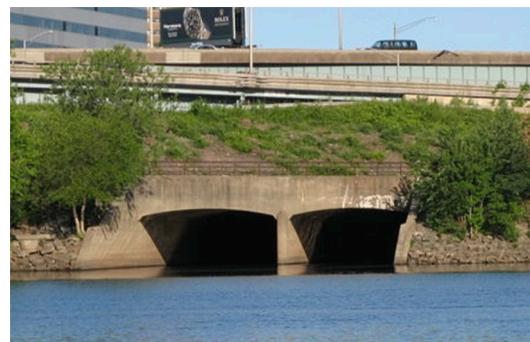
Ray Bendici. 2017. *Park (Hog) River, Hartford*. Wikimedia Commons. <http://www.damnedct.com/park-hog-river-hartford>.

*View of the Park River near the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch, Hartford*. 1890. Photographer unknown. 1890. Archives of the Connecticut Historical Society.

[www.FoundersofHartford.org](http://www.FoundersofHartford.org).

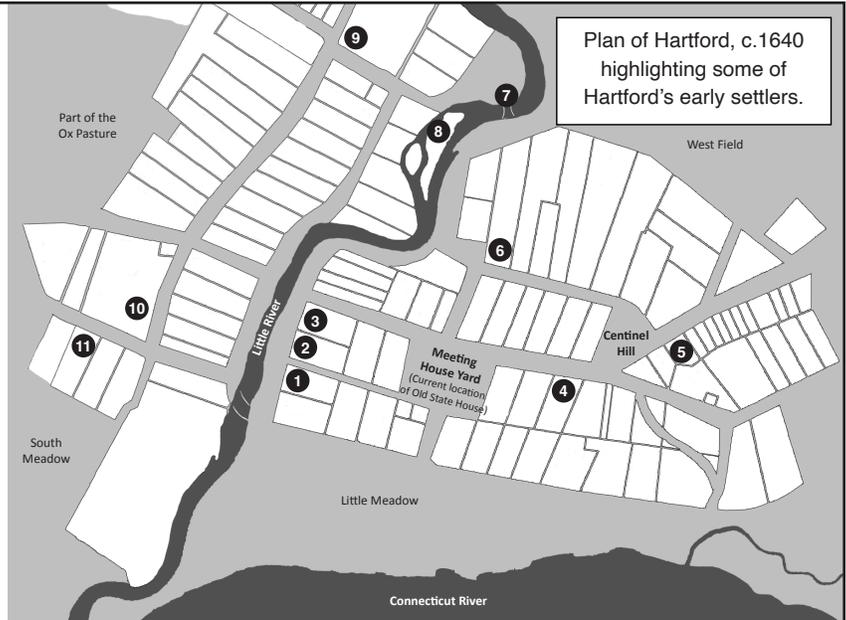


*View of Bushnell Park from the Corner of Asylum Street and Union Place, Hartford. Flood of 1936, Hartford, Photographed by Thomas F. Oakes. Gift of Nora Howard. Collection of the Connecticut Historical Society.*



Outflow of the Park River into the Connecticut River. Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

1. Thomas Hooker (1586–1647) led the settlement's founders from Cambridge, Massachusetts to Hartford. His home lot was approximately on the corner of Prospect and Arch Streets today.
2. Samuel Stone (1602–1663) became the second minister of the First Church of Christ following the death of Thomas Hooker.
3. William Goodwin (1591–1673/4) was the leader of a group that opposed the ministry of Samuel Stone and signed an agreement with others to move upriver and found Hadley, Massachusetts.
4. John Talcott (1594–1660/1) held many important positions including Deputy to the CT General Court and Treasurer of the Colony. He lived on what today is Main Street where the street takes a sharp left turn past Chapel Street.
5. William Spencer (1601–1640) joined with Hartford founders George Wyllys and John Webster to revise colony law in 1639.
6. William Wadsworth (1601–1675) held a number of important positions such as Collector and Deputy to the General Court. He served on the War Committee of 1673 during King Philip's War. His house lot was located on what is today Trumbull St. between Pearl St. and Asylum Ave.
7. Matthew Allyn (1605–1675) operated a mill, owning two acres on both sides of the Little River.
8. John Biddle (1610–1687) operated a tan yard. The 1640 map shows the tan yard on the island in Little River.
9. Joseph Mygott (1595–1680) was an innkeeper, licensed to sell strong liquors. He served on the Hartford petit jury frequently from 1643 through 1667 and was selectman in 1641, 1647, 1652, and 1660. His house lot was located approximately at the corner of today's Washington and Buckingham Streets.
10. George Wyllys (1590–1644/5) was the wealthiest, and one of the most powerful and influential men in the early Connecticut Colony. He became Governor of the Connecticut Colony in 1642. He was also Commissioner of the United Colonies. His house lot is roughly bounded by today's Main Street, Charter Oak Avenue, and Wyllys Street.
11. John Webster (1590–1661) served as Assistant to the Connecticut General Court from 1639 until 1655. He was a Commissioner to the United Colonies of New England in 1654. He became Deputy Governor of Connecticut in 1655, then Governor in 1656. In 1657 he was named as Chief Magistrate.



## Pennies for Planks is back by popular demand!

*Don't let those pennies gather dust in a jar. Put them to work to keep Mayflower II afloat.*

Plimoth Patuxet Museum (formerly Plimoth Plantation) continues to owe hundreds of thousands of dollars for this amazing restoration and the ship will require ongoing maintenance and repairs. Give to Pennies for Planks, ensuring that *Mayflower II* will be available for the enjoyment and education of generations to come.

**Bring your loose change (and maybe even some checks or paper money) to any and all CT Mayflower Society events to fund Pennies for Planks to preserve our beloved ship. Checks in support of Pennies for Planks should be made payable to CSMD, note Pennies for Planks on the memo line.**

*Mayflower II* has been placed on the National Register of Historic Sites. She is a symbol of our heritage as Mayflower Descendants.

Enjoy a video of the *Mayflower II* sailing home which is beautiful and very moving at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6NfrZmgRBo>.

**Bring your donations to our April 2022 meeting or mail your donation to:**  
**Mary Brown, 3 Mountain View Landing, Danielson, CT 06239.**

All donations are tax deductible to the extent the IRS allows.



*Mayflower II* is out of the water for her biennial appointment for maintenance and repairs at Mystic Seaport, Winter 2022.

**CONNECTICUT MAYFLOWER SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 23, 2021, Chowder Pot Restaurant, 165 Brainard Road, Hartford CT 06114**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Governor Gregory Thompson. Governor Thompson. He introduced our honored guest, Jane Grove Riddell Hurt, Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and the Board of Assistants present to the general membership and guests.

**Invocation:** Elder Jean Knapp delivered the invocation.

**Presentation of the Colors:** Captain William Lane presented the colors and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Necrology:** Elder Jean Knapp read the necrology and delivered a memorial prayer in remembrance of those who have passed.

**Reading of the Mayflower Compact:** Treasurer David Grant read the Compact and the meeting was recessed briefly while lunch was served to those in attendance.

**Roll Call of the Ancestors:** The meeting was reconvened at 1:00 p.m. with the Roll Call of the Ancestors by David Grant. Ancestor William Brewster had 26 descendants present at the general meeting, the most for any ancestor. The tally of descendants present at today's meeting from other Mayflower ancestors included:

**Minutes of the April 21, 2021, General Membership Meeting:** The minutes of the April 21 General Meeting were unanimous-

John Howland, 19	John Tilley, 13	Henry Samson, 8	Thomas Rogers, 6	Peter Browne, 2
John Alden, 14	Richard Warren, 13	James Chilton, 7	Myles Standish, 6	Samuel Fuller, 1
William Bradford, 14	Stephen Hopkins, 12	George Soule, 7	Francis Eaton, 5	Degory Priest, 1
William Mullins, 14	Francis Cooke, 9	Isaac Allerton, 6	William White, 5	
	Edward Doty, 9	Edward Fuller, 6	John Billington, 4	

ly approved following a motion by Barbara Schoenly, seconded by William Lane.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer David Grant remarked upon the good financial condition of Connecticut Mayflower Society and provided the following highlights. Our Wells Fargo Operating Account Balance stands at \$87,019 and the William Murray Fund includes savings of \$6,379.

The Scholarship Fund is funded by proceeds from donations and our twice annual raffles held at the general meetings of the CT Mayflower Society and has a face value of \$248,912 and an actual value of \$251,612 with earnings of \$2,954. The Scholarship Fund allows us to provide two scholarships to graduating high school seniors and one graduate student, who are Members of Connecticut Mayflower Society or Junior Affiliate members whose sponsors' membership status is in good standing in the Connecticut Mayflower Society. The Scholarship Fund is comprised of three major components including the S&P ETF with an actual value of \$97,385 or 39% of the total; Bonds with a face value of \$81,000 or 33% of the total; and Vanguard Star with an actual value of \$55,827 or 22% of the total. The remainder of the Scholarship Fund includes smaller holdings in CDs and our Money Sweep account. Treasurer Grant noted that the value of the Scholarship Fund has increased 150% since October 2011 when the fund was valued at \$100,444. David further noted that today's raffle has raised \$870 in support of the Scholarship Fund.

The Life Member Fund has a face value of \$237,685 and an actual value of \$243,535 with earnings of \$4,117. The Life Member Fund is comprised of two major components including Bonds with a face value of \$87,000 or 38% of the total and S&P ETF with an actual value of \$83,274 or 34% of the total. The remainder of the Life Member Fund includes smaller holdings in CDs, Vanguard Star, and our Money Sweep account. The value of the Life Member Fund has increased 100% since October 2011 when the fund was valued at \$143,327.

**Historian's Report:** The Historian's Report is usually given in person and orally at each general membership meeting. Historian Midge Hurtuk noted that if she read all the names of new members since we last met in person, it would cover 8 pages with about 200 new members. In the interest of time, she read the names of new members present and asked them to come forward to be recognized by the membership.

**Connecticut Governor's Appreciation Awards:** Governor Gregory Thompson presented a Certificate of Appreciation to outgoing Elder Jean Knapp who has provided thoughtful and encouraging invocations, memorial prayers, and benedictions at our meetings. She has been an inspiration to us all over many years of service in her role as the Elder of the Connecticut Mayflower Society. Governor Thompson presented Certificates of Appreciation to Kerry Comisky and Randy Russell, outgoing co-editors of Nutmeg Gratings, the newsletter of the Connecticut Mayflower Society. Their editorship and successful handoff to a new editor is a testament to their efforts to keep members informed and educated about our shared legacy as descendants of the Mayflower passengers.

**Raffle and Pennies for Planks:** Julia Parker Post organized a beautiful and well-stocked inventory of nearly forty decorative and engaging items for the meeting raffle. Mary Brown encouraged everyone to donate to the Pennies for Planks program. This

program is designed to raise funds to retire the debt of repairing and restoring Mayflower II and to support the annual upkeep of the ship, a full-scale reproduction of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to Plymouth in 1620. We are happy to work with Plimoth Patuxet Museum to preserve this artifact of our shared heritage and challenge other Mayflower chapters to match our Pennies for Planks donations.

**Nominations for Connecticut Mayflower Society Officers and Board of Assistants** to serve from October 2021 to October 2024: Joan Prentice read the list of those standing for election at today's meeting.

The nominated slate was unanimously approved following a motion by Theresa Latimer, seconded by Mary Wassung. Following

Governor, Gregory Thompson	Treasurer, David Grant	Assistant, Judi Lynn Paige
Deputy Governor, Kerry Comisky	Historian, Midge Hurtuk	Assistant, Joan Prentice
Recording Secretary, Katherine Simmons	Captain, William Lane	Deputy Governor General for CT, Mary Brown
Corresponding Secretary, Nancy Merwin	Archivist, Kenneth Roach	

their election, the newly elected Board of Assistants were sworn in by Jane Grove Riddell Hurt, Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

**Bylaws Amendments:** Sara Champion of the Bylaws Committee recommended adoption of the following amendments to Article II and Article V of the Connecticut Mayflower Society Bylaws. The amendments to these articles are noted in bold italic as follows:

Article II - Section 2. The Board of Assistants shall meet at least once a year to carry on the business of the Society at any date and location. Other meetings of the Board of Assistants may be decided by the Board or by call of the Governor. ***All meetings may be conducted electronically in accordance with Article V Section 2.*** The meetings shall follow the order of business as stated in Article VI.

Article V - Meetings, ***Section 1. Annual Meeting.***

The annual meeting of the membership of the Society shall be held in October, or at such time, as near that date, as the Governor and Board of Assistants may determine; and all other meetings of the Association shall be held at such times and places as may be decided upon by the Board of Assistants, except that special meetings may be held at the call of the Governor, or upon the written request of five members of the Association, in which case the Corresponding Secretary shall call a special meeting

***Section 2. Electronic Meetings***

***The Governor at his discretion may authorize any meeting of the Society or of the Board of Assistants by synchronous electronic means (such as internet communication systems, telephone conferences, video conferences, etc.) In order for an official meeting to be conducted electronically, a majority of the members must have access to the appropriate electronic meeting media, as verified by their response to a call for any particular meeting. The technology used for the electronic meetings shall allow the members full access to and full participation in all meeting transactions continuously throughout the specified time of the meeting. Notice of each electronic meeting shall include a description of electronic means to be used to connect and directions for how to connect.***

The proposed amendments were unanimously approved following a motion by Katherine Simmons, seconded by Kevin Eaton.

**Presentation by Jane Grove Riddell Hurt, Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants:** Governor General Hurt walked us through her personal journey to becoming the Governor General as a retired executive in the manufacturing industry and real estate, and in her roles at the Kansas chapter of the Mayflower Society and on the GSMD Board.

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants is global enterprise with chapters in all states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Europe, and Australia. Governor General Hurt drew our attention to five major projects that are currently underway:

Library Repairs to the Mayflower Society House.	Removal/replacement of antiquated wiring and plumbing systems.
HVAC upgrades.	Interior Renovations to National Pilgrim Memorial Meeting House.
Repair and restoration of the masonry of foundations and chimneys.	

Governor General Hurt recognized Mary Brown for her efforts to inventory the Mayflower Society House. That inventory has been recently converted to cloud-based technology.

At the close of Governor General Hurt's presentation, Connecticut Governor Greg Thompson presented a \$500 donation from the Connecticut Mayflower Society to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. A personal gift bag of locally produced products and mementos was presented to Hurt as a reminder of her visit to Connecticut.

**Retirement of the Colors and Benediction:** Captain William Lane retired the colors and Elder Jean Knapp provided the benediction for the annual membership meeting which ended at 2:23 p.m.

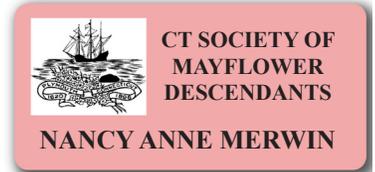
Respectfully submitted by Katherine Simmons, Recording Secretary.

## Order your CT Mayflower Descendants Name Tags – \$20 each

Print your name as you wish it to appear on the name tag. Specify pin or magnet back.

NAME ON PIN: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:  PIN BACK  MAGNET BACK



### ORDER/SHIPPING INFORMATION:

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STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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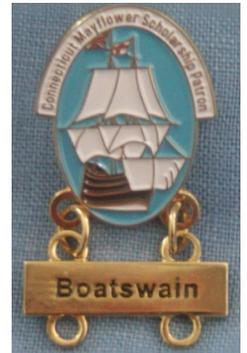
Make your check, payable to Connecticut Mayflower Society. Mail your check and order form to:  
Nancy A Merwin, 284 Chesterfield Road, Oakdale CT 06370-1651

## Support the Connecticut Mayflower Scholarship Program

*Help us to maintain and increase our endowed funds so that we can continue to assist more students.*

While our ancestors were passengers and not crew, we must be thankful to Master Jones and his men for the safe journey over hazardous seas and the support rendered by them to our ancestors during the first winter. The bars on our Connecticut Scholarship Scholarship Patron pin indicate ranks of the crew of the Mayflower. Begin with the Boatswain bar, earn the Pilot bar, then the Master's Mate bar and finally the Master bar to complete your roster.

Become a Patron for an initial donation of \$500 and an annual donation of \$100 and receive our newly designed lapel pin and bars to show your dedication to assisting our youth in pursuing higher education. Patron options include the initial donation of \$500 which can be made in installments during the first year. You will receive your pin when you complete your initial donation. The \$100 annual donations can be made in one lump sum and receive all your bars at one time. If you care to donate more you may wish with our sincerest thank you.



***Yes, I want to honor my pilgrim and the crew who brought them to Plymouth Colony!***

Please accept my donation of:  \$500  \$800  \$100  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your form and check, payable to CT Mayflower Society, to David L. Grant, 4 Holly Farm Ln, Simsbury, CT 06070.

Write CT Mayflower Scholarship Fund in the memo line of your check.

Upon receipt of the donation, you will be mailed your recognition pin and subsequent bars.

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Connecticut is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible to the extent the IRS will allow.

***Our three 2022 Scholarship Award Winners will be featured in the next newsletter.***

**Saturday, April 23, 2022 Membership Luncheon Meeting, 11:15 am–3:00 pm**

**Our Guest Speaker is living historian DREW SHUPTAR-RAYVIS who will present LIFE IN THE EASTERN WOODLANDS, PRE-CONTACT TO 1620.** Enter daily Native American life as it was before permanent European settlement. Discover the techniques used by archaeologists, historians, and anthropologists to create an accurate picture of the past. Drew earned a Bachelors in Anthropology/Sociology from Western Connecticut State University and holds a certificate in Archaeology from Norwalk Community College. He is a descendant of the Pocomoke Indian Nation of Maryland, being of Accomac (Across the Water People) and Pocomoke (Dark Water People) descent. He is an enrolled tribal member in Schaghticoke First Nation of Dutchess County, NY. As an Algonkian historian, Shuptar-Rayvis has consulted on and been featured in the films “Washington’s Armor” and “Rumors of War.”

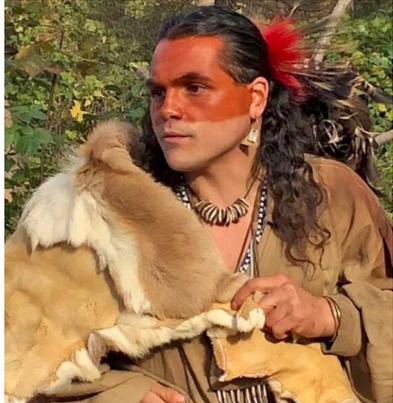


Image shows Drew Shuptar-Rayvis as he appeared in a Colonial-era re-enactmen.



**The Woodwinds, 29 Schoolground Road, Branford CT 06405  
(203) 481-6577 • Exit 56 off Route I-95.**

**CHOOSE ONE ENTREE FOR EACH ATTENDEE:**

- Filet Mignon with Demi-Glace Sauce, \$43,      x \_\_\_ number of meals = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Stuffed Filet of Sole, \$43,                              x \_\_\_ number of meals = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Chicken Marsala, \$43                                      x \_\_\_ number of meals = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Vegetarian Lasagna, \$43                                x \_\_\_ number of meals = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Child’s Meal of Chicken Tenders and Fries, \$18   x \_\_\_ number of meals = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*12 years and under only please.*
- Total Amount Submitted    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner includes choice of vegetable, potato, house rolls with butter. Dessert, coffee, and tea served. Cash bar available.  
**Please send this completed form and payment (checks payable to Mayflower Society of CT) by April 8, 2022 to:  
Sandra Bullock, 6 Heritage Rd., East Lyme CT 06333.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  NEW MEMBER?

STREET, CITY, STATE & ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

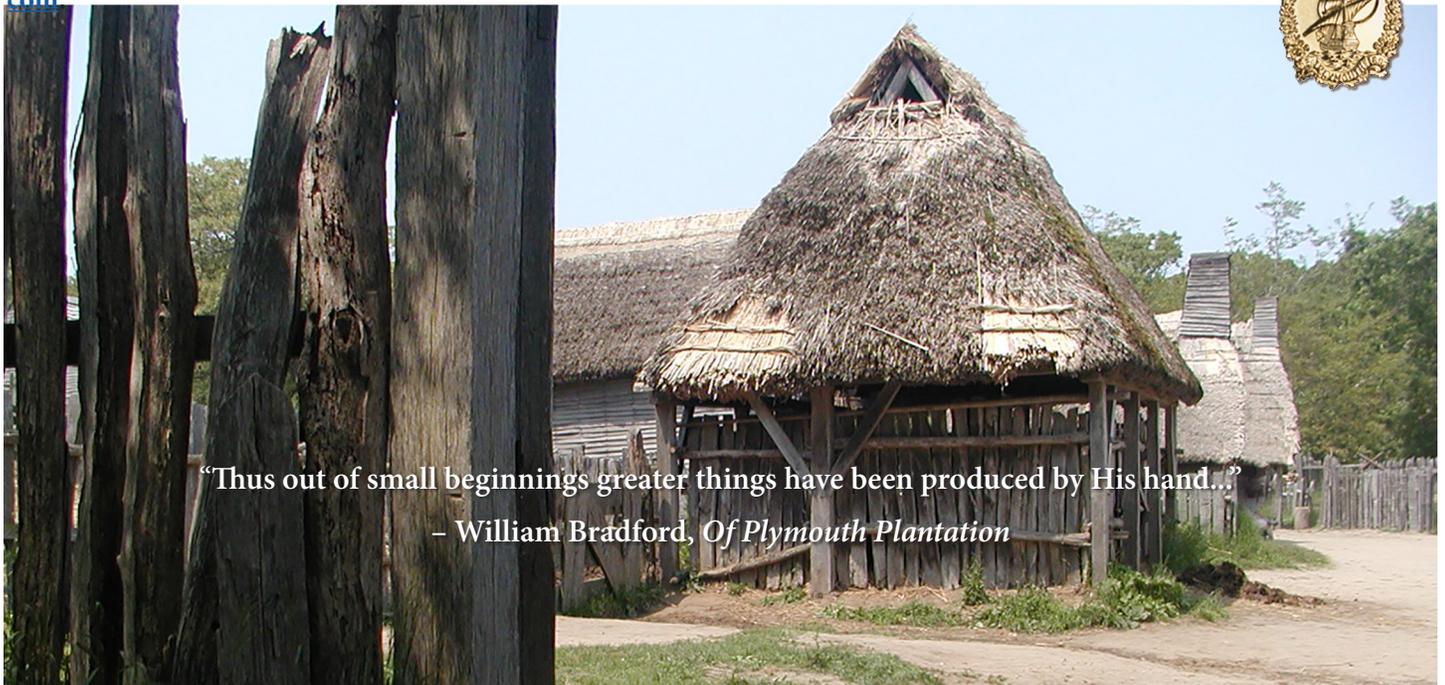


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### General Society of Mayflower Descendants Insignia Guidelines

If you have served in multiple positions in the Mayflower Society, there is insignia, in the form of pins, badges, and neck medallions, to wear in recognition of your service. GSMD Insignia Guidelines can instruct you on how to wear your insignia. [See Resources on the CT Mayflower Society website](#). All insignia is purchased through the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Questions? Please email: [nancyamerwin284@gmail.com](mailto:nancyamerwin284@gmail.com).



“Thus out of small beginnings greater things have been produced by His hand...”

– William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation*