



THE BRIDGE

Governor William Bradford Colony Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants

Volume 17, Issue 3

Fall 2018

Governor's Message

Hope everyone enjoyed their summer!

Laura Brock and I will attend the 81st Annual Meeting of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida. The meeting will be hosted by the John Alden Colony November 16-17, 2018 and will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 100 Fairway Drive, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441. On Friday November 16, a social hour held from 6-7 pm with the banquet following. The guest speaker is Caleb Johnson, renowned author and researcher. Anyone is welcome to attend. More details can be found at <http://flmayflower.com> under the Newsletter tab. The registration form is included in the May 2018 newsletter.

In November 2020, the Bradford Colony will be hosting the 84th Annual Meeting, so we will be looking for ideas!

Vice Governor Jeff Berg has arranged an interesting speaker for our November meeting. See inside for details. We hope you can join us!

Helen Bennett
Colony Governor

Meeting Schedule

Saturday Nov 3, 2018

Saturday Feb 2, 2019

Saturday May 4, 2019

NO HARD COPIES OF NEWSLETTER WILL BE MAILED UNLESS YOU CONTACT LAURA. You can leave your msg. on her phone **727-823-9258** PLEASE LEAVE CHANGE OF E-MAIL ADDRESS THERE ALSO OR E-MAIL mayflowersharpe@tampabay.rr.com If you know of someone that does need a hard copy, please ask them to contact me or perhaps you will copy yours and share with them.

**2019 Dues Notice: Please see remittance form on the last page for 2019 dues.
Thank you in advance!**

**Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants
Governor William Bradford Colony
General Meeting Minutes**

Date: May 5, 2018

Location: St. Petersburg Yacht Club

Call to Order: Colony Governor Helen Bennett called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Pledges: Captain Terri McGoldrick led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and The Mayflower Flag Pledge.

Invocation: Colony Elder Peggy Christie gave the invocation.

Introductions: Guests and prospective members were introduced.

Presentation of New Members Certificates: Helen Bennett presented certificates to new members: John Adair (dual with Georgia), Richard James Scott, Richard Morris, Joanne Bushey and Michael Tinsley. Janet Vance Andrew received her certificate in February but was left out of the newsletter. New member Brett Thomas, approved since the February meeting, was not present.

Approval of Minutes in the Newsletter: The minutes of the February 3, 2018 meeting were approved as corrected, adding Janet Andrew's name to new members receiving their certificates.

Treasurer's Report: Laura Brock: Her report will be filed.

Report of the BOA meeting: Our colony will host the 2020 State Meeting. Terri McGoldrick presented gift basket ideas for the silent auction/drawing. She also suggested creating gifts of children's Mayflower and Pilgrim-related children's books.

Lunch: The meeting recessed for lunch from 12:20 to 1:10 pm. Elder Peggy Christie gave the blessing.

Program: Vice Governor Jeff Berg introduced our speaker Michael Garey, who spoke on "Bad Boy Billington." The Billington family had a bad reputation and got in trouble, but there is another side to their story. Much of what we know about the Billington's comes from William Bradford, who did not like the family. William Bradford blamed the two Billington sons of causing his wife Dorothy to fall overboard and cast the Billington family in a bad light. John Billington killed John Newcomen for trespassing and poaching on his property. However, Newcomen could have died from an untreated minor wound. Francis Billington found a lake he thought was the Pacific Ocean. This lake provided Plymouth Colony with food and water. There are two sides to the story to the Billington saga.

Junior Membership Chair: Elizabeth Whitehurst has applications for junior members. Junior members will receive a certificate, an information sheet about their ancestor and a booklet. Juniors 12 years and up will receive birthday cards and pins. Infants to 18-year-old can join. Their application fee will be waived if they join GSMD before age 25.

Roll Call of Ancestors: Terri McGoldrick led the roll call of ancestors. William Brewster had the most representation.

50/50 Winner: Richard Morris had the winning ticket.

Mayflower Compact: Vice Governor Jeff Berg read the Mayflower Compact.

Benediction: Elder Margaret Christie gave the benediction.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm by Colony Governor Helen Bennett.

Next Meeting: Next Meeting will be November 3, 2018.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Werner, Secretary**

February Meeting Highlights



At our February meeting our speaker was Michael E. Garey. He spoke to us about “Bad Boy John Billington”, giving us two sides to the story. While William Bradford tended to cast the family in a bad light, there were also some good sides to the story. Billington discovered an inland lake that provided food and water for the colony.

Our Vice Governor Jeff Berg presented Michael with a Certificate of Appreciation.

New Members

| Name | Location | Ancestor |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Lynn Dollar | St. Petersburg | Degory Priest |
| Barbara Withey | Ruskin | Stephen Hopkins |

Supplementals

| Name | Location | Ancestor |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Sondra Harper | St. Petersburg | Francis Cooke |

Transfers

| Name | Location |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Seth Wheeler | South Carolina |
| Beatrice Cayzer | Samuel Fuller Colony, Florida |

New Juniors

| Name | Sponsor |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Julia Da Costa | Teresa Chiovaro |
| Aidan Da Costa | Teresa Chiovaro |
| Avery Chiovaro | Teresa Chiovaro |

Deceased Members

Olin Wright, Jr- August 8, 2019 Brandon: Olin was Juniors Chair 1992-2009 and Bradford Colony Captain from 1993-2008.

Dr. Peter Waldron – July 23, 2018 Clearwater: Peter was Bradford Colony Elder from 2012-2014. He was a noted speaker on Stephen Hopkins and spoke to Bradford Colony on several occasions.

November Lunch Meeting



Our speaker, Lori Coffey has been a passionate genealogist her entire adult life. Even though she has American Presidents and English Kings as ancestors, none of her discoveries has thrilled her like the Pilgrims. Once she found Billington, White, Soule, Warren, Allerton and others in her family tree, she began researching all she could about the 102 intrepid Mayflower travelers.

A traveler herself, “Trainer Lori” as she is known on YouTube, was born in Japan and lived all over the world before first settling in Arizona where she graduated from Grand Canyon University. Her career has been about communications – public relations, marketing, and training. Today, she is an educator for a Tampa-based technology company. She lives in Largo between the beach and her four grandchildren. Her biggest thrill is sharing both famous and hidden stories about our Mayflower Pilgrim ancestors whom she knows like family. By sharing humorous anecdotes and involving the audience, Lori helps bring our famous ancestors alive.

Presentation of New Members



Governor Helen Bennett presented certificates to the following new members at the May 2018 meeting: John Adair (dual with Georgia), Richard James Scott, Richard Morris, Joanne Bushey and Michael Tinsley.

Meeting Information

Location: St. Petersburg Yacht Club
11 Central Avenue
St. Petersburg, FL 33703
727-822-3873 (Call for directions)
Date: Saturday Nov 3, 2018
Gathering: 11:45-Noon
Noon: Call to Order

Lunch Menu

House Salad with choice of Ranch & Vinaigrette, Roast Turkey with Dressing & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes
Chef's Selection of Vegetables
Cranberry Relish, Warm Rolls & Butter, Pumpkin Pie
(Indicate below if Vegetarian Menu is preferred.)

Luncheon Reservations: \$30 (including valet parking). Make checks payable to Governor William Bradford Colony. Send reservations by **Monday, Oct 29th** to:
Laura Brock, Treasurer
430 Bay St. NE #705
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-3040
(email: mayflowersharpe@tampabay.rr.com)
727-823-9258

Member's Name: _____

Number of Guests and Guest Names: _____

_____ If preferred, indicate number of Vegetarian Meals.

Enclosed is a check for \$_____ for _____ person(s).

_____ **(Optional)** Enclosed is \$15 for the purchase of an official name badge.

2019 Dues Remittance Form:

Member name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

2019 Dues Total: \$34

Please send a check for \$34 made payable to Governor William Bradford Colony to:

Laura S. Brock, Treasurer
430 Bay St. NE #705
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-3040

SUPPORT OUR 2020 CELEBRATION. BUY 50/50 TICKETS AT THE MEETING. Tickets: \$3 for 1 ticket, \$5 for 2 tickets and \$10 for 5 tickets. 50% of the proceeds go to the winning name drawn and the remaining 50% goes to the 2020 celebration.

Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants
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