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THE MARYLAND *Mayflower Log*

● VOL. XXXI

● FALL

● 2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

○ | **November 22, 2015**
12:00 p.m., Sunday

Compact Day Dinner

Inn at Brookeville Farms
Brookeville, MD

○ | **December 5, 2015**
10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday

Genealogy Workshop

Baltimore, MD

○ | **May 1, 2016**
12:00 p.m., Sunday

Spring Dinner

DoubleTree Hotel
Annapolis, MD

○ | **September 8-11, 2016**
Thursday to Sunday

General Board of Assistants' Meeting

Indianapolis, Indiana

The Pilgrims' First Fifty Years: The Forgotten Story

The Guest Speakers for our annual Fall Dinner will be Andrew Cameron Bailey and Connie Baxter Marlow. Their lecture will feature the friendship between the Mayflower Pilgrims and the Pokanoket Wampanoag Indians in Plymouth Colony between 1621 to 1675.

A great nation began with the meeting of two divergent cultures—English and Indian. Visionary leaders from these two cultures met and worked together at Plymouth Colony to maintain an intercultural exchange that became what Bailey and Marlow call, “The First Great Synthesis,” between Europeans and American Indians. This melding gave birth to American democracy and to the American mind and spirit. “The Second Great Synthesis” occurred when aspects of the Great Law of the Iroquois Indians were integrated into the U.S. Constitution in 1787.

Connie and Andrew will present the Pilgrim story through a balanced perspective of the common vision shared by the Pilgrims and the Indians they lived amongst: a vision based upon the right to act according to one's conscience in a self-governing democracy. They will also address the turbulent history of native New England before the *Mayflower*.

Connie is a member of the Connecticut Mayflower Society. She is a descendant of Pilgrims John Alden and Priscilla Mullins, as well as Thomas Welles, the first Governor



Andrew Cameron Bailey and Connie Baxter Marlow, authors and filmmakers, present their study of the 54 years of peace between the Indians and Pilgrims.

of the Connecticut Colony. Her great-grandfather, Asa Palmer French, was acting-Governor and Deputy Governor of the General Society and General Counsel for many years. Her great-great grandfather, James Phinney Baxter, a preeminent historian, was President of the New England Historical Genealogical Society for 20 years.

Andrew, who calls himself a “latter-day Pilgrim,” sailed across the Atlantic and arrived in America on Thanksgiving Day in 1969. He was born in England and grew up in South Africa among the Zulus. He was a chemistry professor and holds degrees in science, English and social anthropology. We look forward to their exciting presentation, which is sure to enlighten our view of New England history. See page 12 for details.

THE SOCIETY OF



MAYFLOWER
DESCENDANTS
IN THE STATE OF
MARYLAND

THE SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS OFFICERS

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Mayflower Cousins:

As the leaves turn, the colors of Fall remind us of our favorite holiday: Thanksgiving. It is a good time to review our Society's busy year. In June, we had our first family field trip as a joint effort with our sister society, the District of Columbia. This trip was a great success, although the turnout was small. I hope we will have another field trip next year and request your help in generating ideas.

Under the leadership of our Historian, Dwight Mason, the Board of Assistants has authorized the digitization of our historical records. This is necessary for its preservation, which has become unmanageable with nearly 18,000 pages. We have contracted with an experienced firm, the Crowley Company in Frederick, Maryland, to scan our records. This is going to be a time-consuming and expensive undertaking, but, in the long run, it will be worth the effort. As a result, we have created the Historians' Bradford Fund, for those who wish to contribute toward this effort.

In another endeavor, we are creating a new category called, "Friends of the Maryland Mayflower Society." This will permit us to: (1) recognize the spouses of our members (those who cannot become members); (2) acknowledge person(s) who are interested in furthering the goals of our Society; and (3) recognize adopted children of members, if they are not otherwise eligible for membership, as part of our Society.

I want to give a special thanks and recognition to our Captain Fritz Briggs, who has announced his retirement as our Captain after many years of service in that position. We have an exciting agenda planned for our Compact Day Dinner at the Inn at Brookeville Farms and a great Spring Dinner coming up in May at the DoubleTree Hotel in Annapolis. I hope to see you all at the Compact Day Dinner.

Yours in preserving our Mayflower Heritage,

James Bruce Battles
Governor, Maryland Mayflower Society

Contact Information

If you have moved, changed your name, or we have an incorrect address or e-mail on file, please let us know. Our Directory entitled, *The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Maryland 2014-2017*, has been published and distributed to the members. The Directory provides detailed address and contact information and also contains our Society's Bylaws. Please send any new contact information to the Corresponding Secretary, Nancy Young at csecretary@MarylandMayflower.org.

WELCOME ABOARD: New Members

We are happy to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our Maryland Society:

- **MR. BRUCE HOWARD THOMAS**, of Shepherdstown, WV, 13th in descent from Stephen Hopkins.
- **MR. SKIPWITH COALE CALVERT**, of Lusby, 12th in descent from John Alden.
- **MRS. WARREN R. CLARDY**, of New Market, 13th in descent from William Brewster.
- **MR. BRIAN MALCOM SMITH**, of Arnold, 14th in descent from Stephen Hopkins.
- **MR. NEIL RICHARD GRANT YOUNG**, of Lutherville, 11th in descent from William White.
- **MRS. GARY L. DYSON**, of Mount Airy, 12th in descent from John Howland.
- **MR. WILLIAM HALLADAY WHITE, JR.**, of Bethesda, 12th in descent from Francis Cooke.
- **MR. HENRY THOMPSON HEATON II**, of Hagerstown, 11th in descent from John Billington.
- **MR. JEFFREY JONATHAN LLOYD**, of Pasadena, 11th in descent from John Alden.
- **MR. CHARLES GETCHELL GAGE**, of Gaithersburg, 12th in descent from William Bradford.
- **MR. DONALD BRAINARD ELLIOTT**, of New Windsor, 10th in descent from Henry Samson.
- **MRS. HANS W. SCHMIDT**, of Sudlersville, 13th in descent from Francis Cooke.



Supplemental Lines

Congratulations to our members who recently had supplemental lines approved

- **MRS. BRIAN EUGENE SMITH**, of Columbia, 13th in descent from Richard Warren.
- **MS. EVELYN MARIE (VILLA) O'BRIEN**, of Chevy Chase, 12th in descent from Richard Warren.

Commendation & Appreciation Award

Two of our members were nominated for the Commendation and Appreciation Award, which is given by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants' Awards Committee. Normally, this award goes to only one person per state. However, the Committee, after much deliberation, approved both of our nominees. Be sure to attend the Compact Day Dinner meeting in November as we present these awards to our deserving members.

**WILL THIS
BE YOUR
LICENSE
PLATE?**



Mayflower license plates are a great way to promote our Society. The following shows how you can obtain your special organizational tag:

○ | BE A MEMBER

Be a member of this Society in good standing.

○ | OWN A VEHICLE

Be an owner or co-owner on the title of the vehicle.

○ | COMPLETE APPLICATION

Request an application from Warren Howard at 301-384-1279 or e-mail him at [www.warbarhoward@comcast.net](mailto:warbarhoward@comcast.net).

○ | SUBMIT TO MVA

Mail or take your completed application in person to any MVA office, Monday through Friday only, along with a \$25.00 check.

**ORDER YOUR TAGS TODAY
AND YOU MAY OWN LICENSE
PLATE #80!**

THE MARYLAND *Mayflower Log*

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in the State of Maryland



The Maryland Mayflower Log is published biannually by The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Maryland. The contact information is as follows:

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(General Society)

Submissions and articles welcome.

MARYLAND SOCIETY COMMITTEES

Budget & Finance: Marilyn VanWagner, Chairperson,
G. Steven Hartong, Benjamin Proctor III, James Battles, ex-officio;

Bylaws: Hrant Jamgochian, Chairperson,
Benjamin Proctor, Jr., James Battles, ex-officio;

Directory: Nancy Young, Chairperson, Timothy Mallory, James Battles, ex-officio;

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Dr. Daniel Sullivan, James Battles, ex-officio;

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Publicity: Carolyn Fowler, Chairperson,
James Fowler, James Battles, ex-officio;

Scholarship: Virginia Patterson, Chairperson,
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20/20: Timothy D. Mallory, Chairperson,
David Kinzer, Nancy Young, James Battles, ex-officio;

Juniors: Susan Morrison, Chairperson,
Carolyn Fowler, Marilyn VanWagner;

Technology: David Kinzer, Chairperson,
Carol Matsumura, Webmaster.



Ledyard, CT

2015 General Society Board of Assistants' Meeting

September 9-13, 2015

by Benjamin G. Proctor, Jr., Deputy Governor General
James B. Battles, Assistant General/Governor

Thirty seven states, the District of Columbia and Canada were represented by their Deputy Governor Generals and Assistant Generals at the Foxwoods Resort and Casino in Ledyard, Connecticut. Officers, spouses and guests totaled 160. Several activities were planned for those not attending the meetings, including tours of the USS Nautilus submarine and the Mashantucket Pequot Museum. Deputy Governor General, Ben Proctor, and Assistant General, Jim Battles, represented our Maryland Society.

A first-ever, all day training and information session was held on Friday under the direction of Governor General, Lea Filson. This proved to be well worth the time, particularly for the newer Deputy Governor Generals and Assistant Generals, and it served as a refresher for veteran officers. A thorough review of the 2014-2017 strategic plan was presented.

Highlights:

Copies of reports from officers and committees will appear in the December issue of the *Mayflower Quarterly*, some highlights are:

- The organization is going international! Charters are in the early preparation stage for Australia, Germany and the U.K.
- Member societies can purchase certain insignia items for resale.
- The proposed by-law amendment regarding the change of voting for Members-at-Large at Congress was passed and will be presented at the next Congress in 2017. It will now be by plurality vote which will save much time at the meeting.
- Colorado's bid to host the 2019 GBOA meeting was approved.
- Richard Pickering, from Plimouth Plantation, gave a wonderful, first-person presentation of Isaac Allerton at the banquet.



Governor Jim Battles, Governor General Lea Filson, and Deputy Governor General Ben Proctor at the 2015 GBOA meeting.

Governor General Lea Filson conducted a very well-organized meeting. The Indiana Society will host the 2016 meetings in Indianapolis. For more information, visit the General Society's website.

Sea beggars, loaves, fishes, and turkey

the influence of “Leidens Ontzet” on the Pilgrim Thanksgiving

by James B. Battles, Ph.D.

So they left that goodly and pleasant city [Leiden] which had been their resting place near twelve years; but they knew they were pilgrims, and looked not much on those things, but lift up their eyes to the heavens, their dearest country, and quieted their spirits. --William Bradford

William Bradford's famous quote establishes the fact that at least he knew he was a pilgrim leaving his well-established home in Leiden in the Netherlands and venturing forth to the new world.¹ Bradford and nearly half of the *Mayflower* passengers were members of the John Robinson's Christian Reformed Religion and considered themselves visible saints.² The burgomasters and aldermen of the city of Leiden had granted permission to John Robinson and about 100 of his countrymen and fellow congregation, to take up residence in Leyden around May 1, 1609.³ The original document still exists and can be found in the Leiden archives.

When Bradford and his fellow saints left Leiden in the summer of 1620, they not only carried with them clothing, household goods, food stuff, beer, seeds for planting, amour

and arms, but also carried many of the traditions, culture, and civil organizational concepts they had learned while living in Leiden. In their book, *Newcomers in an Old City: the American Pilgrims in Leiden 1609-1620*, authors Joke Kardux and Eduard van de Bilt describe in some detail the Leiden influences that manifested themselves in New Plymouth.³

While the saints of the Leiden congregation were English, many had lived over a decade in the university city of Leiden, which was the focal point of reformed religious thought and practice that influenced not only the Netherlands, but all of Protestant Europe and England itself.

The story of that first thanksgiving has been told and retold in myth and sometimes in truth. There are two—and only two—primary sources for the events of autumn 1621 in Plymouth: Edward Winslow's writings in *Mourt's Relation* and William Bradford writings in *Of Plymouth Plantation*.¹ These are the

Continued on page 10

On TV . . .

We are fortunate to have two new documentaries scheduled this Fall about the Pilgrims.



American Experience: The Pilgrims

Tuesday, November 24, 2015, 8:00 p.m. & Thanksgiving Day, 9:30 p.m., PBS

“The Pilgrims,” a new film by Ric Burns, will premiere on the series, *American Experience*, on PBS. This two-hour documentary explores the converging forces, circumstances, personalities and events that propelled the exiled English group in Holland to eventually

journey across the Atlantic in 1620. Known for his quality of films and unique view of familiar history, Ric Burns promises to reveal individuals far different from those imagined in our memory.

Saints and Strangers

Sunday and Monday, November 22 and 23, 2015, 9:00 p.m., NatGeo

The National Geographic Channel is aiming for a gritty, groundbreaking television event that will shatter American myths about the first Thanksgiving. The four-hour movie, airing in two parts, is a “survival story filled with struggle, betrayal and competing agendas,” says Executive Producer, Gina Matthews. Forget everything your third grade teacher taught you about Thanksgiving. Unlike the picturesque scene, an exhausted *Mayflower* landing party of Pilgrims (saints) and adventurers (strangers) arrive on the shores of the New World.

Please check local listings for actual dates and times.





Genealogy Workshop

for Members of
Sons and Daughters of the
American Revolution and
Maryland Mayflower Society

Please join us for a hands-on experience in beginning and advanced genealogical research on Saturday, December 5. Learn how to self-publish your family history and create your own book to share with your descendants. The first hour session will explain the process of digitizing your collection of documents and photographs to create a multi-generational book.

This Workshop is presented by Governor Jim Battles, who is a member of the General William Smallwood Chapter of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, and our Deputy Governor, Tim Mallory, a member of the Colonial Aquila Hall Chapter.

Mark your calendar now:

Date: Saturday, December 5, 2015

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Place: Maryland Historical Society Library,
Baltimore, MD.

For more information, contact Tim Mallory at
MayflowerMD@Verizon.net.

Treasurer's Update

by Marilyn VanWagner, Treasurer

Below is an update:

- **Membership Dues:** As of October, sixteen member still have not paid their 2015 dues. Third request letters were sent out last week.
- **Expenditures:** All outstanding invoices have been paid to date.
- **Assets & Liabilities:** The balance in our checking account is \$8,585 and in our investment account, \$61,776.

MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

2016-2017

Gini Patterson, Scholarship Chairman

It is time to look for next year's \$1,000 scholarship winner! Eligible are high school seniors, who are Junior members or have a direct lineage connection to a member of the Maryland Society. Please submit a 500-600 word essay.

Essay Topic: "How important to you, and today's world, was the writing of the *Mayflower Compact*?"

Deadline: March 1, 2016.

Application: The application and requirements are available on our Maryland Society website, or by contacting the Education Chairman, Gini Patterson.

Check out our New Online Store!

One of the most exciting additions to our Society website, www.MarylandMayflower.org, is a new online store. It was created to make it easier for members to pay their annual dues, pay fees for our Society dinners and other events, as well as purchase various merchandise for sale. You can access the store directly from the main page, just click, "Shop in our Store".



2015 SPRING DINNER

William Bradford's
'Of Plimoth Plantation'

On Sunday, April 26, 2015, the members and guests met at the DoubleTree Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland for our annual Spring Dinner. Governor Battles introduced our Guest Speaker, Dr. Walter L. Powell, who is the

Executive Director of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in Plymouth.

Dr. Powell's lecture centered on William Bradford's journal, *Of Plimoth Plantation*, an eyewitness account of the Pilgrims' early years, from 1630 to 1651. Dr. Powell noted that Bradford's journal was carefully constructed and written at different times. Bradford's first book, written mostly in 1630, focused on the journey of the Pilgrims to reach America. Bradford's second book, written in 1646, relates the story of the Pilgrims in North America and details everyday life in the Colony.

KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE



collage courtesy of Tim Mallory

St. Mary's Tour

The Maryland and D.C. Societies hosted a historic tour

June 6, 2015

On Saturday, June 6th, the Maryland Society, along with the District of Columbia Society, sponsored a family field trip to historic St. Mary's City.

St. Mary's is the 17th-century site of the founding of the Colony of Maryland. It is now a large, state-run, living history area and museum complex. We had a tour of the Spray Tobacco Plantation, Woodland Indian Hamlet, Town Center, and Maryland Dove. They even served a catered picnic lunch! We had a great time and hope to make trips like these an annual event.



From left to right: Ben Proctor, Jr., former Governor and Member-at-Large, General Society, and granddaughters from Texas, Sofia, Sydney and Savannah Criscitiello and daughter, Pamela Criscitiello, all of whom are life members of our Society.

PILGRIM PROGRESS

Plymouth, MA

Each Friday in August and on Thanksgiving Day, there is a reenactment of the Pilgrims' Sabbath procession to worship. The event assembles to the beat of a drum at the Mayflower Society House and continues to Burial Hill, where the Pilgrims met for worship. Costumed participants represent the 51 survivors of the first harsh winter of 1621.

18th Annual Phantom PHANTOM PILGRIM BALL

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Maryland cordially invites you **NOT** to attend

THE PHANTOM PILGRIM BALL

Your contribution is tax-deductible and the proceeds will be allocated for educational projects and to obtain speakers. The categories are:

PILGRIM	1,000.00
SAINT	500.00
STRANGER	100.00
MERCHANT	75.00
MISSED-THE-BOAT	25.00

Mail your contribution to:
Marilyn K. VanWagner
Treasurer
8060 Windward Key Drive
Chesapeake Beach MD
20732-5107

There is still time for you
NOT to attend

*Sponsored by
The Education Committee*



400th Anniversary

Commemorative Coin Campaign

Now before the U.S. Legislation!

We need your help in campaigning for the General Society's Mayflower Coin Project. The General Society's request to have the U.S. Mint issue a series of commemorative coins recognizing the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage is now before Congress. The Bill was assigned to a congressional committee on July 8, 2015. If you would like to see U.S. coins minted that commemorate the 400th anniversary, it is important that all of our members, along with other states, contact their representatives and senators.

The Bill: The Bill directs the Treasury Department to issue up to 50,000 gold coins and up to 100,000 \$1 silver commemorative coins. These coins will be issued for a one year period, beginning January 1, 2020. For more information, you can search H.R. Bill 2980 and S. 1715 at www.govtrack.us.

Selection: Only two coins are minted each year. To be selected, we need 287 members of Congress and 67 Senators to sign on as co-sponsors.

Contact: Please e-mail your local congressman to help support this bill. To find the names of your local legislators, visit: www.govtrack.us/congress/members/md. Sample e-mails to send to your congressmen and senators can be downloaded from the General Society website, www.TheMayflowerSociety.org/2020-commemoration.

1920 HALF DOLLAR

300th Anniversary Commemorative Coin



Did you know a half dollar was minted to celebrate the 300th Anniversary? In May, 1920, the U.S. Congress authorized the minting of a coin that commemorated the 300th anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims. The famous Boston sculptor, Cyrus E. Dallin, designed the coin. However, the design of this fifty-cent coin may have been rushed since the anniversary year was already half over when approved. That may help explain some design errors: the shape of the Mayflower on the back of the coin, along with the type of sails that were not invented until a later date and their placement on the masts. This

ship looked more like the *Santa Maria*, the ship that carried Christopher Columbus to the Bahamas in 1492, instead of the *Mayflower*.

The front of the coin portrays William Bradford. In designing the coin, Dallin created the image of Bradford, since no known drawing of his actual likeness exists. He gave Bradford the features and clothing often seen in paintings by Dutch Masters of the 1600s. Actually, most of the Pilgrims typically dressed less formally. Historians argue as to whether the book Bradford is holding is a Bible or his own book, *Of Plymouth Plantation*.





2015 Scholarship Winner

The Maryland Society is delighted to award our \$1,000.00 scholarship prize to Rachel Matsumura, daughter of our Webmaster, Carol Matsumura, and granddaughter of long-time Board member, Warren Howard, and his wife, Barbara. Rachel is attending The University of North Carolina, and we congratulate her and wish her all the best. Below is Rachel's winning essay.

"What My Mayflower Ancestry Means to Me"

by Rachel Matsumura

"My lineage traces back to two places nearly six thousand miles apart. Half of me hails from England, following a path back to the Mayflower, and the other half of me hails from Japan, all the way back to the third emperor. I am divided by traits associated with my countries of origin, and yet I am a combination of two distinct and interesting legacies. My ancestry plays an important role in my life, and I take

pride in the richness of my familial history.

The roots on the American side of my family trace back further than most. My ancestors helped build America. They have been in this country since its beginnings, surviving trials of disease, turmoil, and change to lay the foundation for the America I live in today. I am a direct descendant of John Alden, one of the founders of the town of Duxbury, Massachusetts and the last male survivor of the Mayflower voyage to Plymouth. Rising from the Mayflower's cooper to the Governor's assistant, he is one of the earliest American success stories. Having a connection to someone who helped create my home country is incredible.

My two distinct and different ancestries have allowed me to experience the best of both cultures. Learning Japanese has opened my eyes culturally and let me pinpoint the cultural origin of my drive to excel. My education has given me the means to expand my knowledge of both history and literature, allowing me to make connections with my ancestors and understand them better. My passion for poetry and writing rose from reading. Language is an important element in every culture, and it is extremely important to me.

My ancestors had the idea to separate from their religious society to create a more proper one. This bold idea drove them to brave the Atlantic Ocean and set up shop in Plymouth. Upon arriving in the new land, the pilgrims had to start over and set up a community. They had a different set of beliefs and found a safe place to practice them. I want to explore the world, travel to new places and find my own safe haven, wherever that may be. Perhaps I will find it in Japan or England, my countries of origin. Wherever I end up, there is no forgetting where I began.

Home is where I was born and raised, where I learned where I came from, where I live two cultures at once. Being multicultural in such a diverse world and having the best from both sides of my family is truly a blessing. I have the responsibility, diligence, and politeness of the Japanese, while also having the independence and outspokenness of American culture. But it doesn't end there. It's the little things, like being able to use both a fork and chopsticks, and the big things, like being bilingual and belonging to both ways of life at the same time. I recognize that my ancestors' legacy continues in me, and I have the same duties they did: to live and survive, to explore and share, and to experience and redefine what it means to be human. My ancestry is what I have to thank for helping me be who I am, and it is what I get to share with my children someday."



Our member, Warren Howard, accepted the Junior Scholarship Award on behalf of his granddaughter, Rachel Matsumura.



"The Siege and Relief of Leiden": A modern interpretation of the Siege of Leiden by Erwin Olaf, commissioned 2011.

only primary documentation of the event from people who were actually there. Edward Winslow's view of the event comes from a letter he wrote in December of 1621. Bradford's account was written much later in 1647 (see below).

Food

Both Winslow and Bradford helped establish the menu for the Pilgrim Thanksgiving: fowl and venison. Winslow references a "special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors." In addition to describing the food, Winslow indicates, "At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms". Winslow also documents the presence of Native Americans and among the rest their greatest king, Massasoit, with some "ninety men whom for three days we entertained and feasted." Thus, we know from contemporary records what was on the menu, what they did besides eating, and who attended.

Influences

There has been much debate over the roots of this first Thanksgiving celebration. Neither Winslow nor Bradford

elaborate on the origins of this thanksgiving feast. Given the fact that there are only these two references of the Pilgrim thanksgiving, historians have had to rely on other historical records, documentation, and well-known customs of the period. It is important to focus on the customs of those who were present, Pilgrims and native Americans. The native Americans were almost exclusively members of the Wampanoag tribe. The Pilgrims, who were present in New Plymouth, thought of themselves as English. However, half of the group considered themselves "saints" and members of the Separatist Church of Pastor John Robinson and would have been familiar with, and influenced by, customs and traditions of the city of Leiden. The other Pilgrims, sometimes referred to as "strangers" by their fellow Leiden passengers, would have been influenced only by English traditions and customs. For the first thanksgiving, the participants were influenced by traditions and customs of England, Leiden, and Native America. All three of these influences were combined to create a unique American Thanksgiving tradition celebrated today.

Most historians have focused on the fact that there were harvest feasts in England, which some scholars claim were the origins of the Pilgrim thanksgiving.⁵ However, there is a growing movement to recognize the native American traditions that influenced our concepts of Thanksgiving.⁶ *Mayflower* passengers, who considered themselves saints and members of the Leiden congregation, were strongly influenced by their time in Leiden and the unique traditions relative to thanksgiving and other aspects of civic life. It is the Leiden tradition that has mostly gotten lost in our contemporary thinking of the Pilgrim Thanksgiving.

Relief of Leiden

Kardux and van de Bilt address the importance of the Leiden Thanksgiving or "Leidens Ontzet" (relief of Leiden) and its influence on the Pilgrims in their work, contending that the

Pilgrim Thanksgiving: Only Two Accounts

1. Edward Winslow

Mourt's Relation

December, 1621

"Our harvest being gotten in, our governor [Bradford] sent four men fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of god, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."

2. William Bradford

Of Plymouth Plantation

1647

"All the summer [1621] there was no want; and now began to come in store of fowl, as winter approached, of which this place did abound when they came first (but afterward decreased by degrees). And besides water fowl there was a great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, beside venison, etc."

American Thanksgiving is, at least in large part, of Leiden origin.³ Even today, the Leiden citizens take pride in claiming that they taught Americans the Thanksgiving celebration.

Leidens Ontzet would have been celebrated every year in which our Pilgrim ancestors were residents in Leiden and would have shaped their concept of a thanksgiving celebration far greater than the harvest festival back in England. Leidens Ontzet, which is celebrated during the first week of October each year, is still a huge festival. The municipality gives free herring and white bread to the citizens of Leiden.⁷

When Bradford and Winslow were writing about the first thanksgiving, they did not include any reference to Leidens Ontzet. This could be because, like television commercials for auto insurance is fond of saying, “everybody knows that.” Every member of the Leiden congregation who survived the terrible winter of 1620-21 in New Plymouth knew about Leidens Ontzet and would have taken for granted that the Leiden tradition was the way to have a thanksgiving celebration.

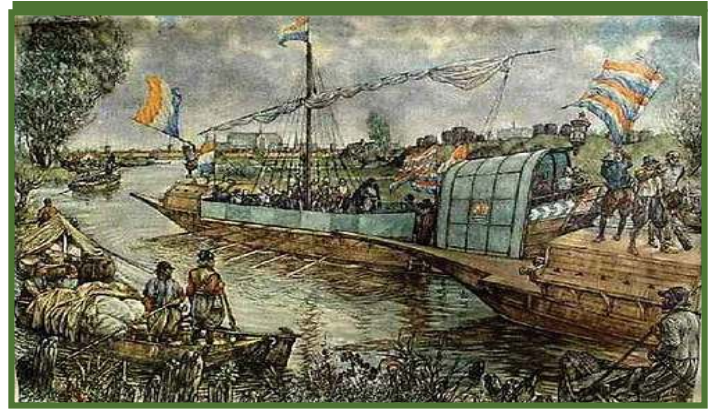


“Distribution of herring and white bread at the Relief of Leiden,” 1574: Painting by Otto van Ween.

Jeremy Bangs, a noted Pilgrim historian who lives in Leiden, supports the contention that the Pilgrim leaders were strongly influenced by Leiden traditions when Governor Bradford stated, “after a special manner rejoice together” in thanksgiving. Mr. Bangs writes:

“Their exile in Leiden, Holland, had provided the Pilgrims with an even more explicit pattern of how Reformed people could express its thanks to God. ‘Every year throughout the city [of Leiden] a General Day of prayer and Thanksgiving [was] held and celebrated on the Third of October, to thank and praise God almighty that he so mercifully had saved the city from her enemies,’ wrote William Brewster’s friend, Leiden’s mayor, publisher, and historian, Jan Orlers, describing the lifting of Leiden’s siege in 1574.”

This article was condensed due to space limitations. The original article was published in the September 2014 issue of the *Mayflower Quarterly*. References available.



“Deliverance” by the Geuzen (sea beggars) on flat-bottomed boats.

Leidens Ontzet (Relief of Leiden)

October 3, 1574

“Leidens Ontzet’ is a festival of thanksgiving that has its roots stemming from the 1573-74 siege of Leiden, during the Eighty Years’ War, when the Spanish Army attempted to capture the city. Provisions for the Leiden citizens had run out and about half of the people had died. The siege finally ended on October 3, 1574 when the Dutch rebel forces broke the dikes and flooded the surrounding area. With the assistance of gail force winds, the water levels rose to a sufficient level so that seamen (known as “sea beggars”) were able to sail up to the city gates and deliver loaves of white bread and herring to the starving citizens.

As a reward for its great sufferings, Prince William the Silent granted the city of Leiden a ten days’ annual fair, without tolls or taxes. As proof of the gratitude felt by the people of Holland and Zeeland for the fortitude of its inhabitants, it was resolved that a university must at once be founded. The following year, 1575, the Leiden University building was consecrated, amid the feasting and rejoicing of a happy and prosperous people. The thanksgiving celebration following the end of the siege became an annual event celebrated even today during the first week of October known as Leidens Ontzet, or the Relief of Leiden.

You are invited



ON BEHALF OF
THE SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS
IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Governor James B. Battles
requests the pleasure of your company
at our annual

COMPACT DAY DINNER

on
Sunday, November 22, 2015
The Inn at Brookeville Farms
Brookeville, MD

"The Pilgrims' First Fifty Years"
Andrew Cameron Bailey & Connie Baxter Marlow

12:00 P.M. RECEPTION & COCKTAILS
1:00 P.M. DINNER

RSVP to Tim Mallory before Sunday, November 15, 2015

Menu

Salad

Organic Mixed Greens w/ dried cranberries,
goat cheese & sherry vinaigrette

Entree

Roasted Turkey Cutlet with
brioche sausage dressing and turkey gravy*
Green Beans
Cranberry Relish

Served with rolls and butter

Dessert

Petite Pumpkin Pie w/ amaretto crème
Local Cider Sabayon



*vegetarian plate available upon request.



Location

Address: **Inn at Brookeville Farms** Phone: (301) 924-6500
19501 Georgia Ave,
Brookeville, MD 20833

Website: www.TheInnatBrookevilleFarms.com

Directions:

From Baltimore: Take I-95 Southbound to Exit 38 (Rt. 32) West,
towards Clarksville. Continue about 6 miles to Exit 20 (Rt. 108)
West towards Olney. Continue West on Rt. 108 for 10 miles to
intersection of Rt. 108 and Rt. 97. Turn right on Rt. 97 North/
Georgia Ave. Continue 1.5 miles to the Inn on right.

From Washington, D.C.: Take 495 to Exit 31, Georgia Avenue (Rt. 97)
North towards Wheaton. Continue North about 12 miles, through
Olney, over Rt. 108. Continue North 1.5 miles to Inn on right.

Cut and return this portion

RSVP

Compact Day Dinner

TO: *Tim Mallory*
1614 Amyclae Drive
Bel Air, MD 21015-2015
(410) 879-2492
Email: MayflowerMD@verizon.net

COST: \$45.00 for each Adult (cash bar)
\$15.00 for each Child
(price includes a 20% gratuity)

FOR: _____ adults and _____ children
for the dinner on November 22, 2015

TIME: 12:00 p.m.: Reception & Cocktails
1:00 p.m.: Luncheon

DEADLINE: Sunday, November 15, 2015

MEMBER'S NAME: _____

GUEST'S NAME: _____

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS: _____



◆ Please make check payable to the Maryland Mayflower Society. ◆



THE SOCIETY OF



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MARYLAND

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