



THE MARYLAND *Mayflower Log*

VOL. L

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2025

CALENDAR

- April 6, 2025
12:00 p.m., Sunday
Spring Dinner
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Annapolis, MD
- July 12-17, 2025
Sat. - Thurs
Pilgrim Tour (6 days)
Sponsored by Feat Travel
Boston, Plymouth, & Cape Cod, MA
- September 4-7, 2025
Thursday to Sunday
2025 GSMD BOA Meeting
San Antonio, TX
- September 20, 2025
Saturday
Maryland Society Event
Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C.
- November 23, 2025
12:00 p.m., Sunday
Compact Day Dinner
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Annapolis, MD

Mayflower Meetinghouse Project

An Update by Committee Chairman Lea Filson

Our Guest Speaker for the Spring Dinner will be Lea Sinclair Filson. She will provide an update on the Mayflower Meetinghouse project and give us insight into how our Mayflower Society differs from other organizations.

In addition to her avid interest in genealogy, Lea has been a television anchor, radio talk show host, and is now President/CEO of See Plymouth, the official tourism

organization for the town and county of Plymouth, MA (www.SeePlymouth.com). She resides at the top of Coles Hill, above Plymouth Rock, where the Mayflower Pilgrims first came ashore in 1620.

Lea is Chairman of The National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse Committee and former Governor General of the General Society (2015-2018). During her tenure, she chartered the Europe Mayflower Society, representing members from seven countries.

Her descendants include Isaac Allerton, Mary Norris Allerton, Mary Allerton Cushman, Degory Priest, Stephen Hopkins, Elizabeth Fisher Hopkins, Francis Cooke, and Edward Doty.

Lea is author to numerous articles about the Mayflower story and has been featured on CNN, FOX Nation, BBC, and PBS. She has been quoted in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *USA Today*, and regularly writes for the *Mayflower Quarterly* magazine. She was inducted into the Hereditary Society Community as an Honorary Member of the Class of 2023. We look forward to her informative presentation.

See page 20 for details.



Our Guest Speaker, Lea Filson oversees the Mayflower Meetinghouse project.



The Pilgrim Meetinghouse

In 1622, the Pilgrims built a fort at the top of Leyden Street at the base of Historic Burial Hill, which served as a place of worship and where meetings were held until they built their first church in 1648. The Meetinghouse stored records of Pilgrim ancestors, dating as far back as 1606 in Scrooby, England, where the Separatists secretly met at William Brewster's house.

The current Meetinghouse was built in 1897—the same year that the General Society was founded—and is the fifth structure built in this location. Historically known as the First Parish Church of Plymouth, it is the oldest continuous church in New England.

In 2018, to save their beloved building, the First Parish congregation donated the Meetinghouse to the General Society.