



The American Experiment

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Children of the Mayflower

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America 250 Maritime Celebration

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# THE MARYLAND Mayflower Log

VOL. LII

SPRING

2026

## CALENDAR

- | **April 15, 2026**  
 8:30-10:30 a.m., Thursday  
**Hereditary Fortnight Breakfast (GSMD)**  
 Army Navy Club Ballroom  
 Washington, D. C.
- | **April 19, 2026**  
 12:00 p.m., Sunday  
**Spring Dinner**  
 DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel  
 Annapolis, MD
- | **April 25, 2026**  
 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Sat.  
**MD House & Garden Tour**  
 Baltimore, MD
- | **May 17, 2026**  
 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Sunday  
**Ft. McHenry Tour & Luncheon**  
 Baltimore, MD
- | **August 22, 2026**  
 Saturday  
**Battle of Brooklyn Bus Trip**  
 Brooklyn, NY
- | **September 11-16, 2026**  
 Friday to Wednesday  
**Mayflower General Congress**  
 Plymouth, MA
- | **November 22, 2026**  
 12:00 p.m., Sunday  
**Compact Day Dinner**  
 DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel  
 Annapolis, Maryland

## Medicine in Plymouth

The Guest Speaker for this year's Spring Dinner will be our Deputy Governor and Surgeon, Dr. Thomas W. Frank. His presentation will examine the experience of doctor and patient and the evolution of medicine in Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Colony. Dr. Frank will discuss the types of care the early Colonists received, the illnesses they faced, how they attracted physicians to early New England, and how those physicians were trained.

Born in Boston, Dr. Frank attended Tulane University on an Army ROTC scholarship.

He practiced medicine in the Army for 30 years, and while on active duty, served as the Consultant to the Surgeon General on the History of the Medical Corps. Dr. Frank currently works as the Deputy to the Commander for Preventive Medicine at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic and as the Public Health Emergency Officer for Aberdeen Proving Ground.



Dr. Thomas Frank will discuss medical practices in Plymouth Colony.

### Plymouth's First Surgeon

Samuel Fuller?



The site of Samuel Fuller's home on Leyden Street in Plymouth

It is said that Samuel Fuller (1580-1633), a *Mayflower* passenger, learned the rudiments of medicine in Holland in preparation for the voyage, but that story is probably untrue. His wife, Bridget, is often called the "Mayflower Midwife," but she never sailed on the *Mayflower* and likely acquired her midwifery skills after arriving in Plymouth.

Samuel Fuller became a health care provider for the Colonists, but the story as often told is not quite correct. He assisted with responses to epidemics in Salem (then Naumkeag) in 1629, Charlestown in 1630, and, in 1633, Plymouth itself. The 1633 epidemic, perhaps smallpox, killed Samuel and at least 20 others in the Colony and over 300 natives.

Dr. Frank participates in various medical organizations and is a member of the American Association for the History of Medicine. He also serves on the Board of Governors of the American Osler Society, an organization dedicated to the history of medicine. He has published several articles, contributed a book chapter on military Medical history, given numerous lectures, and appeared on the History Channel.

Residing in Havre de Grace with his wife, Susan, Dr. Frank is a descendant of Isaac Allerton, William Brewster, Peter Brown, Francis Cooke, Thomas Rogers, George Soule, and Richard Warren. He enjoys genealogy, collecting rare books, and studying military medical history. We look forward to Dr. Frank's informative and educational presentation. [See page 20 for details.](#)

THE SOCIETY OF



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DESCENDANTS  
IN THE STATE OF  
MARYLAND