

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS
MINUTES OF THE 31th ANNUAL MEETING AND COMPACT LUNCHEON, 27 OCT 2012 AT THE HILTON
GARDEN INN IN BURLINGTON ONTARIO

A Meet-and-Greet got the day's activities off to a good start. We had a very good turn-out.

Governor Joyce Cutler welcomed guests and members to the thirty second Annual Meeting and Compact Luncheon. She extended a special greeting to the Mayflower members who live in Canada and who belong to the Myles Standish Colony in Naples, Florida and to the UEL members who are with us today.

On a motion by Bill Goss seconded by Connie Bryce the Minutes of our last meeting which were published in our Newsletter (volume 32 Number 1) were approved unanimously.

THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT was read by George McNeillie.

ANCESTRAL ROLL CALL. Read by Debbie Clarke.

Debbie continued to include the names of all the men, women and children who left descendants. We had representatives from 30 Mayflower families present with us today. The descendants of Billington family were in first place, having 9 members present when all were counted. The family of William Brewster came second with seven members present.

NECROLOGY. Bob White. Bob paid tribute to the following members: Dale LAHEY our Captain died 22 September 2011. Michael Haskins died in 2010; Vernon Vickery died 30 Aug 2011.

REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR. Joyce Cutler

Myrna Geldart is unable to continue to serve as Librarian and Member at Large due to family health concerns. Brent Rutherford has agreed to take over the position of librarian. GSMD Historic Sites Committee is offering a tour of Pilgrim sites in England and in Holland May 18-31 2013. Information on this tour is in the leaflet which can be found on each table. There is a website given. Members will be able to learn more about this trip in the Mayflower Quarterly

DEPUTY GOVERNOR'S REPORT. Susan Roser

This is a very special day, because today our Board of Assistants will welcome three new members. I would like to thank Margaret, Gary and Donna, who will be elected today, for supporting our society by becoming actively involved as a board member. I also thank Brent Rutherford who today will step down from his Corresponding Secretary role to take on a member-at-large position and fill our vacant position as the society's Librarian.

Over the winter the board will be working on long overdue amendments to our bylaws. Among other things we need to allow for electronic voting by our members and we need to restructure the board itself and remove the maximum number allowed so that we are not limited. And, we will be adding Co-Historians to the list of officers.

You will also notice order forms on the tables for the brick walkway project at the Mayflower House in Plymouth. Bricks are \$150 each. Not only is this an opportunity to support the upkeep of the house and gardens, it is also a chance to honour your ancestor and have your name inscribed on the same grounds our ancestors walked.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT Susan Roser

I am very pleased to announce that Donna Denison has agreed to be a Co-Historian. Since our bylaws do not yet allow for Co-Historians, she will be elected today as a Member-at-large so that she is officially a member of the board. When we amend our bylaws next year, she will be elected Co-Historian. Donna joins my "little team" which includes two Assistants. This past year, Judi Archibald in Nova Scotia has been doing the same type of work with applicants in the Maritimes that Donna will be doing. Connie Bryce, as you know, has been my Assistant for a few years now and her help in cleaning up and re-typing worksheets which are sent to me has been indispensable. I am still looking for a Co-Historian, hopefully in western Canada to assist with applicants in that part of the country. Once I find someone, then I will indeed have my "dream team." And I should add, with this much appreciated and needed help; I feel it will no longer be necessary to step down as Historian.

As you have read in the fall newsletter, we are clearing out and downsizing our members' and past members' files. Since there is a copy of all documentation in members' files in Plymouth, it is not necessary for us to keep an additional copy. I have already disposed of approximately 200 files, keeping only the approved lineage papers from each. The majority of these files had no documentation with them while others were either shredded or returned, according to the wishes of our members. The plan is to keep only the approved lineage papers. (For those here today I have brought your files, so please see me before you leave.)

And – this is a special day as well because we have a new member to welcome into our society. Ashley Cormier, Joyce's granddaughter.

SECRETARY'S REPORT. Debbie Clarke.

1. Over the past year The Board of Assistants has passed the following three motions;

On 29 Sept 2012 it was decided that our society will donate \$250 to the GSMD Leiden Research Committee to help fund the Pilgrim research by Jeremy Bangs.

On 29 April 2012 it was decided that our Society will offer a \$100 hotel stipend to out-of-town board members who reside more than 100 km away, when they attend board meeting, and that the DGG and the AG each will be reimbursed up to the sum of \$300 to defray their travel expenses to the General Board and Congress.

PUBLICITY CHAIRPERSON REPORT. George McNeillie.

George attended a successful family reunion last May. He thought it would be fun for us to do something similar someday. Just before Thanksgiving he sent a piece on the Pilgrims Thanksgiving to various news media with no result. He will now repurpose it and turn it into an article and try again.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Not present. The Treasurer's report can be found in the last Issue of the Canadian Pilgrim. Vol. 32 number 2

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE. Deborah Clarke, Chairperson, George McNeillie and Brent Rutherford submit the following slate of nominees for election at the Annual Meeting in Toronto On., Oct 27 2012-10-09

Governor - Joyce Cutler

Deputy Governor - Susan Roser

Elder - Bob White

Counsellor - Sandy Fairbanks QC

Member at Large - Margaret Dougherty.

Since the Newsletter went out three more people have been nominated to the Board of Assistants. Following the bylaws of our Constitution, Article V section 2, which states any member of the Society may be nominated for any office to be filled, by five members of the Society, Susan Roser, Joyce Cutler, George McNeillie, Deborah Clarke, and Carole Cormier have nominated the following people for the positions of members at large:

Gary Bennett and Donna Denison.

Brent Rutherford. Brent will be stepping down as Corresponding Secretary.

Debbie moved that report of the nominating committee be accepted

The report of the Nominating Committee passed unanimously on a motion by Keith Bain seconded by Bob White.

The business part of the meeting now concluded, Joyce asked Bob White to lead us in saying Grace.

Joyce then asked Keith Bain to start off our luncheon with a toast to the Queen.

We enjoyed an excellent meal.

At the conclusion of our meal we held a Raffle.

Joyce Cutler introduced our guest speaker Matthew Wilkinson. Matthew is a graduate of the University of Toronto in History, a historian on the staff of Heritage Mississauga. He is a seventh generation Mississauga resident with an extensive background in local history and historical research.

His topic "A Call to Arms: The War of 1812"

Although the British Military did most of the major fighting and determined the role of the Militia in those conflicts, the story of the Militia is one of everyday people. In recognition of the 200th anniversary

of the War of 1812, Heritage Mississauga is trying to discover, identify and find the graves of those men who served in the militias at that time, so they can honour them by placing a special marker of their graves.

The Militia Act of 1808 gave each district its own regiment. There was an annual muster day; men absenting themselves from that day were subject to a fine. Service could not exceed six months. Each Militia man was to provide his own musket, rifle and ammunition (10 shots). The latter became a problem in the early days of the war since for obvious reasons the men were not evenly armed. Training took place not less than twice or more often than 4 times a year

1812 saw the creation of Flank Companies who were deployed on the sides of the regular troops and army trained. In 1813 the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada passed an act creating the incorporated Militia of Upper Canada. Volunteers from across the province were formed into Battalions to serve during the war. They were offered an eight dollar bounty, 10 dollars towards buying the Necessities and offered a possible land Grant. Pay and allowances were equivalent to those of the regular forces. Although most of the time they served in a supporting role (road maintenance and the wagon troops they did join in the fighting in some of the major battles and were definitely a part in the action at Lundy's Lane.

In the winter of 1814 they were assigned a green uniform.

At the time the war began the American population was ten times that of Upper Canada. The Americans believed that victory would be easily won.

The Americans had some legitimate complaints against the British. Trade restrictions brought on by Britain's on-going war with France, the impressments of American sailors into the British Navy and British support of the native tribes against American Expansion were needless to say not very popular with the America.

The War Hawks who had grown up during the American Revolution decided the only solution to these problems was to drive the British out of North America thus enabling them to take control of the trade routes. Their main objective was to take Lower Canada. They wanted Montreal's seaport. Their attacks on Upper Canada were to be a diversion to draw the British forces from the defence of Montreal's seaport. Once Upper Canada was taken they felt Lower Canada would be easy to subdue.

Sure of a quick victory and that the people living in the Canada's would welcome them with open arms; President Madison declared war on Britain June 19 1812. He then sent his declaration of war by boat to London. Britain did not get around to responding until 1913

However, Isaac Brock received news of the impending war from a fur trader on June 25 and quickly reacted. Parliament was prorogued, the Capital was placed under a Military Civilian Authority and the militia was called up.

Then Brock quickly went on the offensive ordering Fort Mackinaw to be attacked. It was a quick victory. The American Garrison was taken by surprise by the attack. They were unaware that War had been declared. They hadn't got the letter.

An American army under William Hull tried to invade Canada at Sandwich. The invasion was stopped and Brock launched and won an attack against Fort Detroit where he joined forces with Tecumseh. An alliance was made between the two men, and if it hadn't been for the Native Warriors the war might have taken a different course. Definitely the Battle of Queenstown Heights would have been lost.

Matthew then ran through a brief survey of the battles describing both loses and victories. He described the death of Sir Isaac Brock at Queenstown Heights, the death of Tecumseh at the battle of the Thames, the taking of York and the destruction of the fort's magazine which he said not only killed the victorious Americans but also some of our militia who hadn't been told of the plan. Throughout his talk Matthew made the point that the Canada had been ordered to fight a defensive war.

Peace came 24 Dec 1814 in the Treaty of Ghent. The news did not reach the combatants until March 1. The Battle of New Orleans was fought after peace had been declared.

The war of 1812 is a war which ended satisfactory for both sides. Each was able to claim victory. Although many border towns were burned by both sides. British North America successfully repelled American invasion. The only ones that did not come out ahead were the Native Americans. They were not included in the peace talks where any promises made to help them maintain their way of life and lands were forgotten.

Bob White thanked Matthew for his most interesting speech.

After leading us in the Mayflower Song, Joyce said she hoped to see us all next year and closed the meeting.