



Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants

A member society of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants

The Canadian Pilgrim

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35th Annual Compact Meeting and Luncheon



Mark your calendars and plan to attend our 35th annual compact meeting and luncheon on Saturday, October 17. The social hour will begin at 12:00. The compact meeting will begin at 1 p.m. followed by a buffet luncheon that will include roast turkey at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Toronto Cricket Club dining room, 141 Wilson Ave., Toronto, Ontario
Free parking is available in the schoolyard on the north side of Wilson Ave.

Our guest speaker will be professional genealogist and lecturer Susanna de Groot. Sue is a graduate, instructor and administrative coordinator for the National Institute for Genealogical Studies. She serves on the Executive Committee of the Toronto Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society, and is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists—Ontario Chapter, and the National Genealogical Society.

Sue's presentation, *Dead and Buried*, is about how we can gain a more complete and accurate account of our ancestors' lives when we review all available death records.

The cost of the luncheon is \$49 per person (cash bar). Payment can be made by PayPal (see below), or if you prefer, cheque or money order, payable to CSMD or Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants. Cheques and money orders should be sent to the Treasurer, Maureen McGee, 1060 Ewert St, Prince George BC V2M 2P2.

<https://www.paypal.com/ca/home>

Please confirm your attendance separately by email to George McNeillie and advise us of any dietary restrictions at that time.

governor@csmd.org

Payments and attendance confirmation are due by October 4th.



Governor's Column by George McNeillie



I am pleased to report that membership in the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants continues to grow – with more than 70 new applications or expressions of interest since January. In addition, we reached two milestones in July with our 600th and 601st members!

After serving for 33 years as Historian, I am sad to announce that Susan Roser is retiring – although CSMD's loss is the General Society's gain, since Susan will continue her duties as Secretary General of GSMD. Susan has been a tireless advocate for the Canadian Society, and, in addition to being Historian, has held many key positions including Governor. She has helped countless applicants (including myself) to navigate the sometimes murky waters of researching family trees – and she has done it with grace, good humour and encouragement. Susan has also made significant contributions to Mayflower scholarship through the many books she has written and published. We wish her all the best and look forward to seeing her at the Fall Compact meeting. We were also deeply saddened to learn of the death of Susan's father last spring, and I expressed our condolences on behalf of the Board. We are pleased to welcome Nathan Mean, who has volunteered to be our new Historian and his name will be put forth at our Annual General Meeting in October. I am also pleased to note that Donna Denison will remain as Co-Historian.

I would also like to acknowledge our Editor Robert W. White, whom we were proud to nominate for a Governor General's Award for volunteer service this summer. Robert has been involved with the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants since his lineage to William Brewster was approved in 1995 and has been a member the British Columbia Colony since their first annual meeting in 1995. He served as Regent and Vice Regent and as a guest speaker. In the past, he has travelled to Toronto to attend the Canadian Society's Annual Meetings, and, in 2004, he was appointed Editor of the Canadian Society's newsletter, *Canadian Pilgrim*.

Margaret Dougherty, CSMD's Deputy Governor and Digital Administrator, has resigned from both positions. We are very grateful for the many contributions Margaret has made to the CSMD: she did a stellar job in upgrading our website, helping to establish our social media presence and in attending genealogical events to help promote the Society. We thank her for her service.

With these departures, we have a number of positions on the Board and will be seeking qualified candidates. If you are interested, please contact Gary Bennett, Chair of the Nominations Committee at garybennett@sympatico.ca



Our Annual Compact meeting and Luncheon will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2015 at the Toronto Cricket, Skating and Curling Club. We are returning to our usual format with the compact meeting beginning at 1 p.m. followed by a buffet luncheon that will include the traditional roast turkey at 1:30 p.m., after which our guest speaker, professional genealogist and lecturer Susanna de Groot will make her presentation. Ms. De Groot is professional genealogist, and her presentation, *Dead and Buried*, will focus on how we can gain a more complete and accurate account of our ancestors' lives by reviewing all available death records. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible!

Special thanks to the members of the Board of Assistants who are all volunteers and who work tirelessly to keep your Society running.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to send them to me at governor@csmd.org or c/o 47 St. Clair Ave. West – Apt. 903, Toronto, ON M4V 3A5.

Thank you!

With best wishes,

George G. McNeillie, III

Governor



The Business Page



BOARD OF ASSISTANTS

Governor: George McNeillie III: governor@csmd.org

Nova Scotia Regent: Bill Curry: wcurry@billcurry.ca

Treasurer: Maureen McGee: treasurer@csmd.org

Corresponding Secretary: Gary Bennett:

corrsecretary@csmd.org

Historian: Susan E. Roser: historian@csmd.org

Co-Historian: Donna Denison: cohistorian@csmd.org

Elder: Robert V. White: elder@csmd.org

Counsellor: Alexander D. "Sandy" Fairbanks:

counsellor@csmd.org

Surgeon: Dr. George R. Nye: surgeon@csmd.org

Editor, Canadian Pilgrim: Robert W. White:

editor@csmd.org

Librarian: Brent Rutherford: librarian@csmd.org



STAY IN TOUCH

If you are moving please let us know so we can ensure ongoing mail delivery to you. Do we have your email address and phone number?

governor@csmld.org

MEMBERS' BIOGRAPHIES AND PICTURES

Do we have your biography or is the biography that we have of you outdated? If you'd like to be included in future Member Spotlight features, please email your bio and a recent head and shoulders photo to governor@csmld.org

LIBRARY REPORT

Please note that our library holdings are listed on our website at csmld.org (click on Library Catalogue). Our library is housed in the Canadiana Room at the Toronto Public Library's North York Central branch. Library staff don't do in-depth research, but they will check a limited number of appropriate resources for you. Phone 416-393-7241 or email intellsearch@torontopubliclibrary.ca.

Donations of genealogical books are most welcome. Contact Brent Rutherford at librarian@csmld.org

ABOUT YOUR DUES

Did you know that the CSMD pays a proscribed assessment for each member to the GSMD? Starting in 2016, the assessment is \$15 per member, an increase of \$4 from assessments levied in recent years. The assessment comes from each member's dues. The Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants depends on membership dues and other donations to operate.

The deadline for 2015 CSMD dues of \$45 per member is November 30, 2014. We thank everyone who has renewed their support of our Society. If you haven't heard from us (several reminders have gone out), this means you're paid up. If you received this newsletter by regular mail, your mailing label will tell you the status of your dues. Dues can be paid by PayPal, cheque or money order payable to CSMD. The latter should be mailed to the Treasurer, Maureen McGee, at 1060 Ewert St, Prince George BC V2M 2P2.

We appreciate everyone's ongoing support of our Society.

CSMD FEES (NON REFUNDABLE)

Application fees: \$20 (CAD) after lineage review, \$75 (US) when your application is sent to the GSMD Historian General in Plymouth for approval. Family member application fee: \$75 (US).

Supplemental line fee (per line): \$20 (CAD) after lineage review, \$75 (US) when your application is sent to the GSMD Historian General in Plymouth for approval.

Membership certificates: \$5

CSMD lapel pin: \$5 at meetings



Follow us on Twitter [@CanMayflower](https://twitter.com/CanMayflower)

Like us on Facebook: Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS NOW ON MAILING LABELS

As a convenience for members who still receive their CSMD information by regular mail, you'll notice that your mailing label now includes your Canadian and General Society identification numbers, together with information on the status of your paid dues. You need your General Society membership number when you register for members' only access to the General Society website and to sign up for the General Society email newsletter, both of which we strongly encourage, if you use email.

Note: If you received your newsletter by mail and the envelope has a mailing label reading Paid 2014, this means your 2015 dues have not been paid. See elsewhere in this newsletter for details on how to pay.

HELP WANTED: RECORDING SECRETARY AND CAPTAIN

The CSMD needs your help. Our Board of Assistants needs a **recording secretary** and a **captain**. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions.

Our Bylaw describes the duties of recording secretary as follows:


"The Recording Secretary shall record the proceedings of the Society and of the Board and mail or email minutes to each Board Member; shall give due notice of all meetings of the Society and the Board; shall have custody of such records as are not specifically in charge of other Officers; shall in general perform all duties usually appertaining to such office, such as keeping track of address changes, he/she shall inform the General Society of the death, resignation or dropping of any Members, or of the transfer of any Member from another Mayflower Society; shall fill out and return all forms submitted to us by the General Society."

Our Bylaw describes the duties of captain as follows:

"The Captain shall be responsible for the proper care and preservation of the flags and see that they are properly displayed at all meetings and other occasions requiring them; shall act as Marshall at parades and on occasions of ceremony."

The Board of Assistants meets twice a year in Toronto and stays in touch in between by email as required. If you live outside the Greater Toronto/Hamilton Area, we use Skype or Facetime at our Board meetings, enabling some of our Board members to attend remotely. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact Gary Bennett, Chair, Nominating Committee, at corrsecretary@csmld.org

Seasickness Treatment on the Mayflower

Common treatments were conserve of wormwood, and in some cases little cakes of sugar and gum-dragon mixed to a paste with powder of cinnamon and ginger. 



GO GREEN: EMAIL REMINDER

The CSMD now uses email exclusively wherever possible to communicate with members, applicants and prospective members. This includes distribution of the *Canadian Pilgrim* newsletter. Regular mail is used only for those members who do not use email, or by request to governor@csmd.org

SIGN UP FOR THE GSMD EMAIL NEWSLETTER

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants launched an email newsletter last Fall to stay in touch with members. You'll get alerts about when the next issue of *The Mayflower Quarterly* is available online, and other general news updates. Sign up at :

<https://www.themayflowersociety.org/> with your General Society membership number.

Forgot your General Society membership number?

Ask : historian@csmd.org

Please see pages 110 and 111 of the September 2014 *The Mayflower Quarterly* for important information about its print and production schedule. Don't miss out on receiving *The Mayflower Quarterly* news.

UPCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

2015 CSMD ANNUAL COMPACT MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Saturday, October 17, Toronto Cricket Club, Toronto

Social hour: noon; Luncheon and Meeting: 1-3 p.m.

Details to follow.

41st TRIENNIAL GENERAL CONGRESS, GSMD

Sept. 2017, Plymouth MA

EDITOR RECEIVES COMMENDATION



The 2015 meeting of the General Board of Assistants was held September 12 at the Foxwoods Resort and Casino in Ledyard, Connecticut. There were 160 registrants from 37 member societies, including Susan Roser, representing Canada as the Deputy Governor General.

Certificates of Commendation and Appreciation are given out at each meeting and are for extensive volunteer service with significant direct benefits to the Society of Mayflower Descendants as stated in its Constitution. The recipients who are nominated have supported and enhanced the objectives of their society as well as the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

This year the Canadian Society was pleased to nominate our *Canadian Pilgrim* Editor, Robert White for his significant service to our Society. His certificate and pin were accepted on his behalf by Susan and will be mailed to him.

Congratulations, Robert

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

We are having a good year and I expect to have approved 20 new members by October.

After 22 years and 447 approved applications, I have finally made the decision to step down as Historian of the Canadian Society and have sent Governor George McNeillie my letter of resignation, effective October 17th. It was a hard decision which I have been struggling with for the past couple of years and I made sure that we had someone else to fill the position before making it final.

I am pleased to report that Nathan Mean has answered the call and is the Nominee for Historian. I have been training Nathan the past several weeks and he is enthusiastic and loves research. He will be a wonderful asset to our society. Nathan will take over as Historian upon his election on October 17th. I will continue to provide him with assistance in making the transition and will be available to him in the coming weeks.

I would like to thank my Co-Historian Donna Dennison; Judi Archibald, Historian for the NS Colony and my Assistant Connie Bryce. Each one of you has been instrumental with helping our membership grow and I appreciate your dedication and support more than I can say. I know you will continue to support our new Historian.

Susan E. Roser

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the nominees that will be put forward for the elections to be held at the Compact Luncheon and Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants. This meeting will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2015 at the Toronto Cricket Club Dining Room

Those who have accepted our nominations are:

Counsellor - Sandy Fairbanks

Elder – Bob White

Surgeon - Dr. George Nye

Historian - Nathan Mean

Member at Large - Brent Rutherford

Member at Large - Susan Roser

The following positions do not yet have any nominees:

Deputy Governor

Recording Secretary

Captain

Board of Assistants – 4

If anyone is interested or knows of someone's interest, please notify us as soon as possible.

Gary W. Bennett (Chairperson)

Brent Rutherford



New Members



We welcome to the
Canadian Society

598
John Nathan Mean
(Alden)
Ottawa, ON

599
Jennifer Rebecca Baker
(Brewster)
Huntsville, AL

600
Douglas George Steen
(Warren)
Saint John, NB

601
Paul Gordon Steen
(Warren)
Toronto, ON

602
Elizabeth Rae Hyslop
(Warren)
Kingston, ON

Necrology



The Canadian Society extends its most sincere
condolences to the families of the following:



Joan Stace-Smith
April 17, 1927-May 21, 2015

Joan was born, educated, married and raised her family in Vancouver, British Columbia. She obtained a BSW degree at UBC and worked in the child welfare field.

She was a dedicated member of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants since 1998. She was one of the founding members of the BC Colony and served as Vice Regent, Treasurer and Secretary. Joan and her husband Dick generously hosted a great many of the BC Colony meetings at their home in Vancouver. She attended the 36th General Congress in Plymouth, Massachusetts in September 2002 as one of the Canadian delegates.

Joan's Mayflower connection was through her Mother, Glenna (McManus) Taylor who became a Mayflower member in 1969 (Member #31907, Mayflower ancestor Edward Doty). She emigrated from Iowa to Canada as a small child following the death of her mother and joined the California State Society (CA member 2717) through a cousin as there was no Canadian Society at that time.

She will be greatly missed.

Edward Doty

Edward Doty was a passenger on the Mayflower, 1620, as a servant to Stephen Hopkins and his family. There was also another Hopkins' servant, Edward Lester, with whom Doty fought a duel. He was a freeman of Plymouth in 1633. Edward Doty appeared in the Plymouth courts on numerous occasions, both as plaintiff and defendant, for fighting, slandering, trespass and debt.

He died August 23, 1655, in Plymouth. His estate totaled £137 19s 6d., of which £60 was in land.



Members' News



Lynn Pierce-Hanlon 3

Ancestor: William Bradford

Joined 1980-09-13

Lynn served as Recording Secretary (1980-1984) and Corresponding Secretary (1984-1989). She is a Charter member and dual member with the New York Society.



Phillip Thorpe 67

Ancestor: William Brewster

Joined: 1982-04-14

Phillip Thorpe was born in Wolfville, Kings County, Nova Scotia. He graduated from Acadia University in Wolfville in 1958 (B. Sc.) and from McGill University in Montreal in 1960 (B. Eng). His Electrical Engineering Degree was applied in many ways during his 31 year

career with Shell Canada, especially in seismic exploration, data processing, and exploration software development.

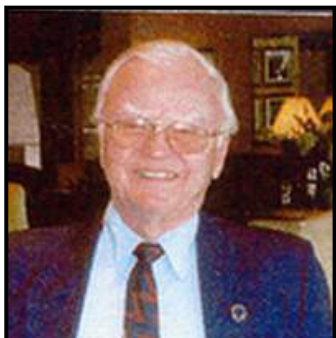


Leon Warnski 15

Ancestor: George Soule

Joined: 1980-09-13

Leon was an archivist with the Archives of Ontario, now retired. He and his mother were both charter members of the Canadian Society. He attended General Board of Assistants meetings and Congresses from 1989 to 1993.



Arnold Nethercott 118

Ancestor: George Soule

Joined: 1987-01-19

Arnold is a native of Middlesex County in Ontario, born on a farm and educated in a rural elementary school, small village continuation school, London South Collegiate Institute and the University of

Western Ontario. His first career was in the Canadian Armed Forces, in which he served for 23 years, in Canada, Europe and Cyprus. On retirement in 1973, he returned to complete an undergraduate degree in urban geography.



Terrence Smith 93

Ancestor: William Brewster

Joined: 1984-06-25

Terry was born and raised with his three brothers, in Drumheller, Alberta, in the land of the dinosaurs. He joined the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets and reached the position of officer in the Navy League of Canada. Before retirement Terry was a TV Technical Producer/Director/Manager.



Nanda Graham 161

Ancestor: Richard Warren

Joined: 1992-06-08

Nanda was born in Calgary. As a military 'brat' Nanda lived and went to school in Germany, Kingston, Rednersville (on the Isle of Quinte), Rome, Oslo, Montreal (where she learned to speak French) and

Belleville. Her love of Italy and an interest in learning more about Italian cooking led her to spend several summers working in the kitchens of Tuscan Restaurants. As well, Nanda pursued a course in enology to become a sommelier specializing in Italian wines.




Miriam Wheeler 101

Ancestor: Richard Warren

Joined: 1985-06-14

Miriam's parents moved from Kansas to Saskatchewan in 1910. They were pioneers. After training in commerce she worked in Washington, DC. While there she studied piano under Professor Tutorsky who had escaped from Russia. He wanted her to become a concert pianist, but she believed her vocation was to a missionary. She went to Columbia

International University to study Bible and from there to France where she lived for 36 years.

The ancestors of the members listed above were among the 100 or so European men, women, and children who boarded the *Mayflower* bound for America in September 1620, but after the first winter only about 50 remained to face the New World. From that modest number came estimated millions who could claim a direct lineage to the Mayflower voyagers. 



Odds and Ends



Mayflower Cats

Felix was the ship's cat aboard the *Mayflower II* when she set sail from Devon, England, to Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1957 to symbolize the solidarity between the UK and the US. The presence of cats on the original *Mayflower* is less certain but cats were always welcome on ships because they controlled rat infestations and protected essential food supplies. It is not surprising that there was little specific mention of a kitty on the *Mayflower* as their presence was so common in ships that they often went unnoticed. It is, however suggested that there was at least one cat on the *Mayflower*. This was supposed to be a shorthaired calico cat who was mentioned in her owner's family Bible. It is also suggested that this cat gave birth to a litter soon after the ship arrived in Plymouth. This leads us to the conclusion that there must also have been a male .cat undertaking the same voyage. No doubt this would make an interesting research topic for some aspiring PhD student.

Crime and Punishment in Plymouth

There were five crimes that were punishable by death in Plymouth Colony. They were (1) treason or rebellion; (2) "willful" murder; (3) making a compact with Satan, including witchcraft; (4) arson of houses or ships; and (5) rape. Trial was always by a jury of 12 peers. When Indians were tried, the jury usually consisted of Christianized Indians to avoid the appearance of bias. Serious crimes were usually investigated by a grand jury.

"The remaining crimes were generally punished with a fine, a public whipping, or sitting in the public stocks." The following presents a sample of criminal offenses and the associated punishment or fine, taken from pre-1650 court records of Plymouth.

Adultery

To be severely whipped on two separate occasions, one in public, and to wear the capital letters AD sewn on back of upper garment or sleeve.

Fornication

Unmarried couple who refuse to get married after incident: whipping, fine of £10, and three or less days in prison.

Unmarried couple who agree to get married : £10 fine, but no whipping. Couple already engaged to be married at time of incident: fine of 50 shillings.

Cursing God

Three hours (or less) in the public stocks.

Lying in public

Fine of 10 shillings. If can't pay, then 2 hours in stocks

Stealing

Repay double the value of what was stolen, or be publicly whipped

Getting drunk

Fined, value to be determined by the magistrates.

Gambling with dice or cards

Fine of 40 shillings

Tearing down or burning someone's fence

Rebuild the fence, plus a 50 shilling fine for first offense, £5 fine for second offense

Defacing a landmark

Fine ranging from 20 shillings to £5, depending on severity.LB

Wearing visors or other "strange apparell"

Fine of 50 shillings.

Smoking tobacco in public, or near hay (soldiers exempted)

First offense, 12 pence. Second offence, 2 shillings

Failing to attend church

10 shilling fine

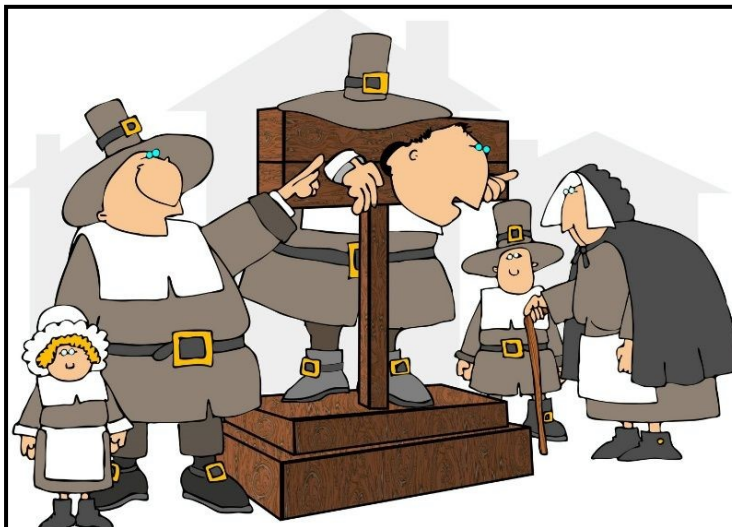
Working (laboring) on Sunday

10 shilling fine

Traveling on Sunday

20 shilling fine

Pilgrim News, The newsletter of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Nebraska. <http://news.almy.us/art0402.htm>



Archaeologists Are Trying To Figure Out Exactly Where Plymouth Was: A new excavation is looking into the location of the famous colony

The Mayflower, the pilgrims and Plymouth Rock are deeply engrained in American lore, but where, exactly, was the Plymouth colony located? We actually don't know for sure. But researchers from the University of Massachusetts, Boston are now undertaking an excavation to pinpoint the exact location of the pilgrims' colony.

A Smithsonian Institution Affiliate, Plimoth Plantation draws 360,000 visitors a year to an open-air museum with historical re-enactments from the period but is located about three and a half miles from where researchers believe the original colony was founded.

Luckily, there are historical descriptions of the early settlement that archaeologists can use as a starting point. Emmanuel Altham, who visited the town in 1623, three years after the Mayflower landed, wrote:

It is well situated upon a high hill close unto the seaside... In this plantation is about twenty houses, four or five of which are very fair and pleasant, and the rest (as time will serve) shall be made better. And this town is in such manner that it makes a great street between the houses, and at the upper end of the town there is a strong fort, both by nature and art, with six pieces of reasonable good artillery mounted thereon... This town is paled about with pale of eight foot long, or thereabouts, and in the pale are three great gates.

The "high hill" is today known as Burial Hill, which is home to a graveyard that overlooks the harbor. It's one of the few locations of the original town that hasn't been disturbed by construction or paved over, and is therefore the perfect place for an

archaeological dig. The team is using ground-penetrating radar to survey the ground before digging, to ensure they don't disturb any graves in the process.

The archaeologists are on the lookout for any small artifacts that might have once belonged to the pilgrims, as well as stains in the ground that might indicate where the wooden walls of the town (the "pale" referred to by Altham) might have stood. Any wood would have long since rotted away.

Excavation of the site is expected to continue for years.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/ist/?next=/smart-news/archaeologists-try-figure-out-where-plymouth-was-180951851/>



BURIAL HILL

The hill before you has been used for burials by Plymouth residents since the 1620's. The first English settlers (known as "The Pilgrims") built their first fort/meeting house here.

Here, Mayflower passengers are buried including Governor William Bradford and William & Mary Brewster. The last burial took place in 1957.

The earliest grave markers were of carved wood, and do not survive today. Stone markers were likely used starting in the mid-seventeenth century. Today, the oldest known stone on Burial Hill is that of Edward Gray, 1681.

These early stone markers are valuable historic documents, and many are irreplaceable works of folk art. As you walk through Burial Hill, please remember that this is historic and sacred ground, which deserves care and respect. Many stones have a better chance of survival if they are not touched. We appreciate your cooperation.

The cemetery is closed from dusk till dawn each day.

One Candle's Light

By Fay Alexander

Fay Alexander has written a book called, *One Candle's Light*, (Oaktara, 2009). It is a historical novel beginning with William Brewster's coming-of-age around 1578 in rural England and continuing through the community's home at Plimoth Plantation in Massachusetts in 1622.

She made three trips to England to research the Pilgrims' individual stories and the gathering of their community.

She indicates that from the point of view of Americans, the most significant contribution the Pilgrims made to American history was that they were part of the English Reformation of the Christian church which swept Europe and England in the 16th Century. The Pilgrims therefore became known as the "Pilgrim Fathers" celebrated at Plimoth Plantation as the first permanent family settlement in America.



Thanksgiving Day in Canada

While some researchers state that "there is no compelling narrative of the origins of the Canadian Thanksgiving day", the first Canadian Thanksgiving is often traced back to 1578 and the explorer Martin Frobisher. Frobisher, who had been trying to find a northern passage to the Pacific Ocean, held his Thanksgiving celebration not for harvest but in thanks for surviving the long journey from England through the perils of storms and icebergs. On his third and final voyage to the far north, Frobisher held a formal ceremony in Frobisher Bay in Baffin Island (present-day Nunavut) to give thanks to God and in a service ministered by the preacher Robert Wolfall they celebrated Communion.

The origins of Canadian Thanksgiving are also sometimes traced to the French settlers who came to New France with explorer Samuel de Champlain in the early 17th century, who celebrated their successful harvests. The French settlers in the area typically had feasts at the end of the harvest season and continued throughout the winter season, even sharing food with the indigenous peoples of the area.

As settlers arrived in Canada from New England, late autumn Thanksgiving celebrations became common. New immigrants into the country—such as the Irish, Scottish, and Germans—also added their own traditions to the harvest celebrations. Most of the US aspects of Thanksgiving (such as the turkey), were incorporated when United Empire Loyalists began to flee from the United States during the American Revolution and settled in Canada. 🇺🇸

Traditions and Dates

In the United States, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November but in Canada, it is celebrated on the second Monday in October (which is Columbus Day in the U.S.). While Americans and Canadians both celebrate Thanksgiving Day, there are several differences between the traditions and practices in the two neighboring countries.

Since 1957, Canadian Thanksgiving—which the natives simply call Thanksgiving—has occurred on the second Monday of October. But it hasn't always been that way. Years after the first celebration, the holiday occurred sporadically to coincide with larger events, differing by region. And if these events didn't occur in autumn? No big deal. In 1816, the end of the war between Great Britain and France inspired Thanksgiving in both Lower and Upper Canada in May and June, respectively. Then in 1921, the country tried to schedule a two-for-one so that Armistice

Day and Thanksgiving would both be celebrated the Monday of the week of November 11. Thanksgiving's a lot less confusing now that Canada's one big tribe and can always count on the same annual three-day weekend.

Back in the U.S., Franklin D. Roosevelt is still regarded as one of the greatest presidents of the 20th century. He helped America recover from the Great Depression and fight a world war. He taught Americans that "the only thing they had to fear was fear itself." But no one talks about how FDR ruffled everyone's turkey feathers in 1939. Another beloved president, one Abraham Lincoln, first declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863. The president was given the power to choose the date of the

holiday each year, but the last Thursday of November became the standard. Holidays were difficult to celebrate during the Great Depression. Many businesses worried that most Americans wouldn't spend money Christmas shopping if Thanksgiving fell on the last day, or the fifth Thursday, of the month, as it did in 1939. So Roosevelt moved the holiday one week earlier, to the dismay of many Americans. Calendars were out-of-date. School schedules were disrupted. And retailers still complained that they were losing income. Some states decided to ignore the presidential decision and celebrate Thanksgiving on the usual day; others followed the president. For the next two years, Roosevelt made Thanksgiving the second to last Thursday of the month.

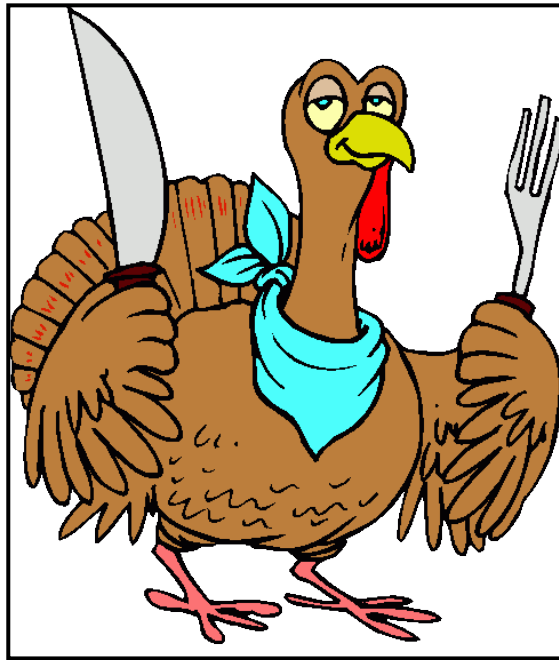
But no one likes to fight over turkey dinner. In 1941, Congress officially declared Thanksgiving to be the fourth Thursday of November every year. Let them eat pie!

Thanksgiving's a federal holiday in the U.S., so most Americans get a day off to stuff themselves—and then a long weekend to rehear leftovers. Still, many others, from hospital employees to store clerks to restaurant workers, hold down the fort over the holiday. 🇺🇸

Canadian Thanksgiving is not as strongly associated with shopping by Carolyn Ali in TOWN on October 9, 2014

In America, Black Friday (the day after Thanksgiving) is legendary: American news reports show how some shoppers go straight from their Thanksgiving celebrations to the mall the moment it opens.

That doesn't happen for Canadian Thanksgiving. The holiday Monday means it's a long weekend for many people, but shopping isn't an essential part of it. Many stores operate on



more limited hours on Thanksgiving Sunday and Monday.

Don't get me wrong—there are plenty of sales and promotions that happen on Thanksgiving weekend in Canada. But up here, our biggest shopping day of the year is Boxing Day—December 26, the day after Christmas. That's when you'll see line-ups outside electronic stores.


Canadian Thanksgiving is not as big a deal as American Thanksgiving

From what I can tell, Thanksgiving seems to be almost as significant a holiday as Christmas in the U.S. People fly across the country to visit family, and according to U.S. Bureau of Transport statistics, the number of long-distance trips increases by 54 percent over the six-day Thanksgiving period, while that increase is just 23 percent over the Christmas/New Year period.

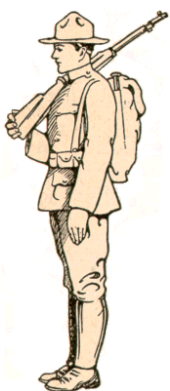
Movies like *Planes, Trains, and Automobiles* add to the perception that people move mountains to celebrate with extended family over American Thanksgiving.

In Canada, of course, people also travel to be with loved ones over the Thanksgiving weekend. However, my perception is that fewer Canadians take time off work for long-distance travel. We stick closer to home on Thanksgiving than we do at the end of December—that's when more people take extended time off for family visits.

Of course, Vancouverites love to make the most of a long weekend. Since the weather is often sunny and crisp, we go hiking, visit the farmers market, stroll along Kitsilano Beach, or meet for dim sum.

<http://www.insidevancouver.ca/2014/10/09/how-canadian-thanksgiving-differs-from-american-thanksgiving/> 

American Troops Celebrate Thanksgiving in 1917



During the First World War, special efforts were needed to feed five distinct groups: American troops stationed in the U.S., American troops abroad, the U.S. civilian "home front," European allied troops, and European civilians. Herbert Hoover was given sweeping power to set prices and to take measures against hoarding and profiteering. Americans were urged to save on sugar, wheat, fat, and meat. Civilian Thanksgiving recipes reflected this patriotic austerity, as pumpkin pies were sweetened with molasses and served with sugarless ice cream.

American troops celebrated Thanksgiving at camps in the United

States and overseas during the First World War. Soldiers and sailors from every region of America, men who often had little in common, gathered together to celebrate a unifying and patriotic holiday, a day that was uniquely American. This unifying theme was emphasized by the military Thanksgiving menu, a menu that centered almost entirely on "traditional" New England food.

<http://www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org/pdf>

[Thanksgiving during World War I.pdf](#) 

Thanksgiving Day Celebration in United Kingdom

Harvest Festival' as is popularly known, is one of the oldest festivals in United Kingdom. It began in churches in the year 1843, when Robert Hawker invited local parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at a church in Cornwall. This resulted in the custom of decorating churches with home-grown products. In the old times, the success of crops determined the success or failure of the people. The natives of UK, pleased the God of fertility by offering him the first sheaf of corn. This was done to ensure a good harvest in the coming season. The ritual of offering an animal sacrifice, generally a hare, is accompanied with the cutting of last sheaf of corn. It is said that the last sheaf of corn contains its spirit. "corn dolls" are made to symbolize Goddess of grain. The entire community is invited for a celebratory dinner as part of the festivity. It is held every year in the month of September, on a Sunday nearing the harvest moon. This festival is however not declared a national holiday. The celebrations continue till date in the rural communities. Children sing hymns, and gift fruits and vegetables. Distribution of fruits and vegetables also takes place in local communities.

<http://www.thanksgiving-day.org/celebration-united-kingdom.html> 

What if you're a Canadian or an American in the UK?

If you want to celebrate Thanksgiving but you can't get to the States (or Canada) to see the parades, there's no need to be miserable, you can celebrate over there! Thanksgiving is not based on any specific religion, so if you feel like giving thanks and celebrating with friends and family, this is definitely the day to do so.

Eat food: With every year that passes it is becoming more and more fashionable for British restaurants to hold Thanksgiving themed events in November, so why not book into a restaurant for a pumpkin pie or slice of turkey? If going out isn't your thing, you could try your hand at cooking your own Thanksgiving day feast at home.

<http://www.warble-entertainment.com/blog/celebrate-thanksgiving-uk/> 

Canadian Pilgrim Newsletter of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants

is published in the spring and fall of each year. Subscription for non-members is \$10.00.

Contributions of Mayflower and Pilgrim related articles and news of members are welcomed.

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