




Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants

A member society of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants

The Canadian Pilgrim

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Governor's Message



As I write this letter in late February, we seem to have been granted a brief respite from winter – with temperatures ranging from 13 to 17 degrees! I know it won't last, but it provides a pleasant reminder that spring will be here shortly – we hope by the time you receive this newsletter!

Recently, I applied to Ancestry.com to have my DNA analyzed. As a *Mayflower* descendant, I was pretty sure that it would confirm my antecedents as being primarily from Great Britain (especially Scotland and England). Imagine my surprise when it was revealed that only eight percent of my ethnicity is from the UK! A whopping 39 per cent of my DNA comes from Western Europe (I knew I had

German, Dutch, and Huguenot French in my family tree); there was an equally strong showing from Ireland (34 per cent); and 10 per cent from the Iberian peninsula (Spain and Portugal); eight percent from Scandinavia; and traces of Finland and western Russia as well as European Jewish (two per cent each). No wonder the popular television program is entitled *Who Do You Think You Are!* While I have no doubts as to the veracity of my *Mayflower* ancestry, DNA testing will undoubtedly open up rich new avenues to explore in my family tree, and it confirms that we are really a migratory species.

Last fall, professional genealogist Ruth Burkholder, our guest speaker at our Annual Compact Luncheon, spoke about how to preserve family history for future generations. This was a timely topic for those of us who have accumulated a trove of materials in our genealogical research. I'm pretty sure that my children will not want the many letters, journals, old photographs, and other materials I have accumulated in my research, so I'm scanning many of these and looking for a good home for them – most likely in provincial and university archives and in local museums. I encourage you to do the same, so that they are not lost for posterity.

As a national society, in the second largest country in the world, our membership is scattered over a great expanse of geography. That can make it more challenging for us to create a sense of community. I'm pleased to state that your Board of Assistants has representation from across Canada, including: B.C., Alberta, Ontario, and Nova Scotia. We 'meet' twice a year by conference call and exchange much information by email. I am pleased to welcome our newest Board member Anne Doty Wright, who was elected Librarian at our annual meeting last October. Anne will be helping us to make the *Mayflower* Collection at the Toronto Reference Library more accessible for those researching their *Mayflower* lineage. A



huge vote of thanks also to our Treasurer, Maureen McGee; Robert White, the editor of *Canadian Pilgrim*; Nathan Mean and his Historian Team of Donna Denison and Judi Archibald; Elder Bob White; Member-at-Large Susan Roser (also General Secretary of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and Editor of The Mayflower Quarterly); Counsellor Sandy Fairbanks; Surgeon Dr. George Nye; and Nova Scotia Regent Bill Curry. Their hard work and wise counsel is greatly appreciated. If you are interested in joining the Board, we have a number of positions open: Deputy Governor, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Captain. We hope to fill these positions soon, and if you are interested in learning more, please contact me directly at governor@csmd.org.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Annual Compact Meeting and Luncheon on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at the Toronto Cricket Club in Toronto. At the time of writing, we have not yet confirmed a guest speaker, but we will again be looking for someone who can speak on genealogy and family history.

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

Thank you!
With best wishes,
George G. McNeillie, III



The Business Page



GSMD Congress 2017



The 41st Mayflower General Congress will take place at Hotel 1620 Plymouth Harbor, 180 Water Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts, September 8-13, 2017. The business meetings of Congress cover two days, Monday and Tuesday, September 11 and 12; if you are a GBOA officer or delegate from your Member Society, do not register for any tours these two days. We are pleased to offer a new venue for our closing banquet, the beautiful Indian Pond Country Club in Kingston. New to this Congress will be an Exhibit Room and Family Society Lounge.

Registering for Congress can be done in two ways: online or by mail. We encourage members to register


for the Congress online. It is quick, easy and confirmations are sent out immediately. If you prefer to mail your Form in, the pink Registration Form for Congress is included in the spring 2017 issue of The *Mayflower Quarterly Magazine* and will not appear in future issues. You can also download the form below to print out at home.

You can register on line at

www.themayflowersociety.org

Canadian Society members are of course welcome to attend. If you are giving this some thought get in touch with Susan Roser at atlarge1@csmd.org or George McNeillie at governor@csmd.org

They can provide any additional details you may wish.

Additional to the conference some great tours are being offered. 

BOARD OF ASSISTANTS

Governor: George McNeillie III:

governor@csmd.org

Nova Scotia Regent: Bill Curry:

wcurry@billcurry.ca

Treasurer: Maureen McGee:

treasurer@csmd.org

Historian: Nathan Mean

historian@csmd.org

Co-Historian: Donna Denison:

cohistorian@csmd.org

Librarian: Anne Doty Wright:

Librarian@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

Member at Large: Susan Roser:

atlarge1@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@csmd.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@csmd.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 the dues that each member pays. The Canadian Society depends on membership dues and other donations to operate.

The deadline for 2017 CSMD dues of \$45 per member is November 30, 2016. 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 NEW MEMBER FEES (NON REFUNDABLE)

Application fees: \$20 (CAD); Lineage review: \$75 (US) which accompanies your application when it is sent to the GSMD Historian General in Plymouth for approval. Family member application fee: \$75 (US).

Supplemental line fee: \$30 (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

On CSMD.org

Check out our website under the Board of Assistants and Annual Compact Meetings links for agendas, reports and minutes of recent meetings

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

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 2016, this means your 2017 dues have not been paid. See elsewhere in this newsletter for details on how to pay.

HELP WANTED:

RECORDING SECRETARY AND A 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.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT



Eight new applications approved, as of October, 2016, with two more awaiting approval in Plymouth.

- There are an additional 70 prospective members who have approached the Society and their applications are being worked on by the Historian team of Nathan Mean, Donna Denison, and Judi Archibald; additionally, six supplemental applications have been received from current members.

- The Historian team has requested the following: rent a mailbox to receive applications; develop a policy for the destruction of documents that are: in one of the team's possession, are at least three years old and are no longer being used to pursue an application, and may contain private information covered under privacy legislation; to seek qualified members to assist the Historian team with the large workload of processing applications and to provide succession planning.



NEW LOOK FOR THE *MAYFLOWER QUARTERLY*

The *Quarterly* has a new name, a new look and a new editor. The *Mayflower Quarterly Magazine* will be delivered to your home mail box four times a year and will be available to view online in the members-only section of the GSMD website. It will be a larger format, consist of up to 24 pages, with full-color pictures and contain Society news and business only. Governor General Lea Sinclair Filson has appointed Secretary General Susan E. Roser the new Editor.

NEW PUBLICATION *MAYFLOWER JOURNAL*

GSMD is publishing a new genealogical journal, *The Mayflower Journal*. This publication will contain 96 pages of black and white text and will be published twice a year, May and October. The *Journal* will be offered by mail to GSMD members at the member subscription rate of \$15.00 and/or a free electronic version will be available for members online. Subscriptions to the general public will be sold at an introductory price of \$25.00 annually. The *Journal* will feature well documented articles on Pilgrim genealogy and history, including occasional issues focused on presentations of a conference or exhibition of special interest to Society members and the general public. For subscription details please visit www.TheMayflowerSociety.org

Necrology




Coggins, Harold Frederick - age 100 passed away Tuesday, October 18, 2016 in Soldiers Memorial Hospital, Middleton. Born October 4, 1916 at Westport, Digby County, Nova Scotia. Harold was a member of the Nova Scotia Colony of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants. He was a descendant of Isaac Allerton.

Curran, Ruth Evelyn - at the Extendicare Medex Long-Term Care Home, Ottawa, Ontario, December 17, 2016, Ruth Evelyn Curran (Lever). Daughter of the late Elva and Raymond Lever. Ruth was a descendant of Richard Warren.

Pilgrim Burials

Pilgrim burials were relatively simple affairs. The occupants of the *Mayflower* were buried in unmarked graves because it is thought that they didn't want the Native Americans living in the area to know how small of a population they were.

When Pilgrims died, headstones were not erected at the burial site. No artisans skilled in carving stone had come over with the first group of settlers. In addition, there was no stone available in the area where the Pilgrims settled from which to fashion a monument to the dead. Their first priority was to concentrate on the tasks necessary for survival; even if the stone carvers had come on the trip, there wasn't any time to carve headstones. 

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants

**Saturday, October 22, 2016, at 12 p.m.
Toronto Cricket Club,
141 Wilson Ave., Toronto, Ontario**

1. Call to Order: Mayflower Compact. A quorum being present in person, Governor McNeillie called the meeting to order at 12 p.m.
2. Historian N. Mean read the Mayflower Compact.
3. Descendants Roll Call: Member-at-Large S. Roser conducted the roll call. There was a four-way tie between descendants of Alden, Howland, Mullins, and Tilley, each of whom had four descendants present.
4. Necrology & Grace: Governor George McNeillie read out the names of Society members deceased since the 2017 compact meeting and led Grace.
5. Approval of Minutes of the 2015 Annual Compact Meeting: Motion: that the minutes of the 2015 annual general meeting be approved. Moved by S. Roser, seconded by C. Bryce. Carried.

6. Reports of Officers

A) Governor's Report:

CSMD *Mayflower* Collection moved from North York Public Library to Toronto Reference Library; thanks to former Librarian Brent Rutherford for helping to establish and catalogue the collection, and to Historian Nathan Mean for assisting the Governor and for storing duplicate copies. This was a huge and time-consuming task and ensures that that collection will be available for research by members. A new letter of agreement will be negotiated with the library.

Congratulations to Member-at-Large Susan Roser on her appointment as Editor of *The Mayflower Quarterly*. Thanks to outgoing Board member Gary Bennett for his service. The 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower landing is coming up quickly and we would like to solicit ideas to celebrate it in Canada.

B) Historian's Report

Eight new applications approved, as of October, 2016, with two more awaiting approval in Plymouth. There are an additional 70 prospective members who have approached the Society and their Carried

Applications are being worked on by the Historian team of Nathan Mean, Donna Denison, and Judi Archibald; additionally, six supplemental applications have been received from current members.

Consent Agenda Items

Motion: rent a mailbox to receive applications; develop a policy for the destruction of documents that are: in one



of the team's possession, are at least three years old and are no longer being used to pursue an application, and may contain private information covered under privacy legislation; to seek qualified members to assist the Historian team with the large workload of processing applications and to provide succession planning.

C) Treasurer Report/Annual Unaudited Financial Statements

Motion: to approve the unaudited financial statements of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants for the year ended June 30, 2016 that were compiled by the treasurer.

Motion: to waive appointment of an auditor or public accountant for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017; and that unaudited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 be prepared by the Treasurer. The platform for our website has been completed at a cost of \$600. It will be more compatible with search engines to make us more discoverable. No objections were raised and these motions passed.

D) Database Administrator

The platform for our website has been completed at a cost of \$600. It will be more compatible with search engines to make us more discoverable.

No objections were raised and these motions passed.

E) Nominating Committee

The following Board three-year terms have come due and the members have agreed to stand for re-election: Governor – George McNeillie; Treasurer – Maureen McGee. Open positions for the Board include the following: Deputy Governor, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Librarian, and Captain. George McNeillie and Maureen McGee were elected by acclamation.

D) New Business Election of Librarian

Motion: that Anne Doty Wright, who has kindly consented to stand for election as Librarian, be so elected for a three-year term. Moved by: M. Gregory, seconded by C. Bryce. Carried

E) Old Business

Governor George McNeillie apologized that the application for a grant of arms and badge for the CSMD had not yet been made with the Canadian Heraldic Authority, and he promised an update at the next AGM. Carried

The Meeting was adjourned at about 12:20 p.m.

Pilgrim Meetings

In the landmark MAYFLOWER COMPACT OF 1620, the Pilgrims decided that they would rule themselves, based on majority rule of the townsmen. This independent attitude set up a tradition of self-rule that would later lead to TOWN MEETINGS and elected legislatures in New England.

New Members



We Welcome to the Canadian Society

621

**Marcus Aaron Millet
(John Howland)
Edmonton, AB**

622

**John Paul Stuart Roney
(Stephen Hopkins)
Hamilton, ON**

623

**Shirley Corey Thorne
(Peregrine White)
Fredericton, NB**

625

**Glenn Steven Cook
(Francis Cooke)
Phoenix, AZ**

626

**Margaret Rose Fearon
(Francis Cooke)
Yarmouth, NS**

627

**Elsie Elizabeth Landers
(Francis Cooke)
Standford, NS**

628

**Harold Norman Aylesworth
(John Howland)
Belle River, ON**



36th Annual Compact Meeting and Luncheon



L-R Tim Stuart, Anne Doty Wright (CSMD Librarian), Susan Roser (Member at Large), Gary Bennett



L-R Maureen McGee (CSMD Treasurer), Jeanette Harris, Murray Gregory



Nathan Mean (CSMD Historian), John Paul Rony, Joanne Rony, Connie Bryce, Douglas Bryce



Bill and Thelma Goss



Courtney McNeillie and Marion Tate



L-R Betsy Chubb, George McNeillie (CSMD Governor) and Julia MacDonald



Mayflower History



Plymouth Archaeological Rediscovery Project Livestock in Plymouth Colony

The original article, written by Craig S. Chartier, covers the livestock and livestock husbandry practices in Plymouth Colony 1620-1692. This portion of the article is a general introduction to a much larger study which may found at:

<http://plymoutharch.tripod.com/id133.html>

This study begins in England where the livestock and the husbandry practices familiar to the Pilgrims originated. Three authors were reviewed for this project. They are William Harrison, a historian writing in 1587. Also Gervase Markham and Barnaby Googe, both agricultural historians writing in 1614.

This historical information was compared to the data collected from a study of the probate records of Plymouth Colony for the period 1633 to 1689. A total of 257 probates were scrutinized. Probate data has limitations though, such as the inconsistency in which the various assessors used identifiers such as male and female or age and conclusions must be viewed with some caution.

The livestock data gathered from these records was compared with the deadstock information provided by the archaeological record from four Plymouth Colony sites. These are the C-14, Edward Winslow site 1630-1650, C-02, Josiah Winslow site 1650-1690, C-21 the Allerton-Cushman Site 1650-1690, and one circa 1676 feature from the Perry site.

When various sources were reviewed as a whole, it was found that Plymouth Colony's livestock practices began somewhat hesitantly but eventually, by the late seventeenth century developed to a point that it was similar to what would have been familiar to yeomen in England. Several trends also became evident through the probates that were born out archaeologically. These

include a low occurrence of goat and increases in sheep and cattle raising throughout the century. When the *Mayflower* arrived at Cape Cod in November of 1620, it has been speculated that she probably carried at least a few livestock with her. These probably included hens and roosters, swine and possibly goats. Hens and swine are prodigious breeders and would not have taken up much space on board the ship. Goats were well known for their hardiness and their use in wild areas and were commonly brought over by fishermen and those who desired a small tough milk producer that could survive in the wilds of New England.

The first mention of livestock in Plymouth Colony was in March of 1623 when Edward Winslow, one of the leading men in Plymouth Colony, desired to make chicken soup for the ailing Native Sachem Massasoit. At this time Winslow sent a messenger back to Plymouth to get a bottle of drink and "also for some chickens to

make him (Massasoit) broth" But when the messenger returned with the chickens. "he (Massasoit) would not have the chickens killed, but kept them for breed." (Winslow 1623: 34). In September, Emmanuel Altham was visiting the colony and he noted that "here is belonging to the town six goats, about 50 hogs and pigs and diverse hens." (James 1963: 24).

The first cattle did not arrive in Plymouth until the following year when Edward Winslow returned from England with three heifers and a bull (Bradford 1984: 141). It is not known

exactly when sheep first arrived in Plymouth, although it is suspected that Myles Standish brought them back from England in 1625. The first reference to sheep is in 1627 in a trade between Standish and Abraham Pierce where Standish traded Pierce two ewe lambs for Pierce's share in a cow (PCR Vol 1 1627: 15). In 1627, the Plymouth Adventure was bought from their Merchant Adventurer backers in London by several of the chief men of the Plantation, afterwards known as the Undertakers. Following this purchase, the colony agreed to stay together for a period of five years to repay the Undertakers. To this end the entire stock of the company was divided. This included the cattle, goats and swine " At a publique court held the 22th of May it was concluded by the whole Companie, that the cattell wch were the Companies, to wit, the Cowes & the Goates should be equall devided to all the psonts of



Kerry Cow

http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-CMKOzKfHliw/UjL7Br3DnYI/AAAAAAAAABDY/WI6Dfru_vwq/s1600/P1030187.JPG



the same company & soe kept untill the expiration of ten yeares after the date above written & that every one should well and sufficiently pvid for there owne pt under penalty of forfeiting the same.

That the old stock with halfe the increase should remaine for comon use to be devidid at the end of the said terme or otherwise as ocation falleth out, & the other halfe to be their owne for ever. " (PCR Vol 1: 9). There were a total of 22 goats and 17 cattle recorded."

The cattle of England were described in very Anglicentric

terms by Harrison in 1587 as being the best in all the world with horns that were fairer and larger, spanning three feet tip to tip, than anywhere else. Harrison also stated that the cattle in England were larger than any other with the average ox standing as tall, presumably at the head, as the average man (Harrison 1994: 306). Almost thirty years later, in 1614,

Markham echoed these sentiments in a slightly more reserved way when he described the cattle of the seventeenth century. While the concept of "breeds" of cattle was such as the Holsteins, Gurnseys, etc. that we have today was not in use in the seventeenth century, animals from certain areas were noted as being physically different and possessing of different qualities. Markham noted three main types of cattle the black, the red and the pied or spotted. Black cattle were said to be found primarily in Yorkshire, Darbyshire, Lancashire, and Stafford-shire and it was preferred that the black cow be all black, with only the udder being allowably white (Markham 1614:43). Red cattle were found in Somerset-shire and Gloucestershire and pied cattle were found only in Lincoln-shire. The areas above noted were identified as the places were the best cattle came from. The ideal milk cow was identified as having a " stately shape, bigge, round, and well buckled together is every member, short joynted, and most comely to the eye" (Markham 1614: 42). Googe added that cows should be "high of stature, and long bodied, having great udders, broad forehead, faire hornes, and

smooth" (Googe 1614:: 121). The ideal draught cattle was to be " exceeding tall, long and large, leane, and thin thighed, strong hooved, not apt to surbaite.... (Markham 1614:42). Googe elaborated on this and stated that male cattle, whether they were bulls or oxen should be:

"large, (with) well knit, and sound limbs, a long, and large, and deepe sided body, blacke horned, broad foreheaded, great eyed and blacke, his eares rough and hairy, his calves to be large and wide, his hippes blackish, his neck well brauned and thicke, his dewlappe

large, hanging downe from his necke to his knees, his shoulders broad, his hide not hard or stubborne in feeling, his belly deepe, his legges well sette, full of sinewes, and straight, rather short then long, the better to sustaine the waight of his bodie, his knees straight and great, his feete one farre from the other, not broad, not runing in, but easily spreading, the

hayre on all his body thicke and short, his tayle long, and big hayred." (Googe 1614: 121). Both authors noted that when breeding a heifer or cow that the bull should be of the same color as the cow, so as not to mix the qualities of the types (Markham 1614: 43)

Cows were seen as having two main uses, for dairy and for breed with red cows being known for their high milk production and black cows for their "ability to bring forth the goodliest calves" (Markham 1614: 44). All types of cows were believed to be most productive from age three to 12 years old with the advice being given that one should not breed a heifer under three, that older cows give more milk and that after 12 years old the cows were no longer good for breeding (Googe 1614: 121). Each year the farmer was advised to sort his stock so that the old cows that were bareine or unfit for breeding could be put away, sold or used for the plow in the same way that oxen were (Googe 1614: 121)

The cattle present in 1627 in Plymouth included black, red, white-backed and white-bellied varieties. The black



Milking Devon Cattle

<https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/originals/e5/66/89/e56689782dbc2c49f260b91c14b06abe.jpg>




cattle may have been of a breed or similar to those today called **Kerrys**. Kerry cattle are descended from ancient Celtic cattle and were originally Native to County Kerry Ireland (Christman, Sponenberg and Bixby 1997: 30). While Kerrys were not imported into England from Ireland until the 1800s, the native English breed of black cow may have originated from the same ancient Celtic stock.

The white backed cow and the white bellied calf that were mentioned in the cattle division may be what we consider distinct breeds today, but more likely they are black cattle with white markings. It was once common for black cattle such as the Kerrys to be born with patches. The presence of white on the black cattle is a dominant genetic characteristic and thus shows up fairly regularly. Today for the standardization of the breed, white markings are not accepted for registration of an animal and as a result the presence of white markings on black cattle such as Kerrys is not encouraged. Black cattle in general were believed to be very hardy types that could survive in low forage areas and were prodigious breeders.

The red cattle were probably from the southwestern section of England in the Devon area and to its immediate east.

These probably are of the breed today called **Milking Devons**. Red cattle were believed to be hardy and excellent milk producers.

As the century progressed, other colors of cattle show up in the probate records such as brown, white, pied, staved, brindled and white faced. Some of these may be genetic variants of the initial stock, such as the brown, staved and white faced, while others may be the result of new stock being transported into the colony from England or other colonies.

Cattle were very important to the lives of the dairy loving English and within a decade of their initial arrival, they became an important trading commodity with the Massachusetts Bay Colony. It was determined soon after the arrival of these settlers that a good profit could be made selling them cattle and corn. New meadows were laid out to the north of Plymouth at what is now Marshfield and it appears from the dramatic increase in the number and frequency of occurrence of cattle in the probate records, that many people believed that this would soon prove financially beneficial to any who could raise a few cattle. By 1638 livestock prices had risen dramatically in Plymouth Colony with the average cow selling for between 20-28 lb a piece. (Bradford 1984: 302)... 

Colony News



Nova Scotia Report

The Annual General Meeting of the Nova Scotia Colony of the Mayflower Society was held at the beautiful, historic Digby Pines Golf Resort and Spa on Saturday, 24 September. The event was well attended, with over 56 in attendance, many from out of the province, and even out of the country. Distance award goes to Margaret Dougherty, who came from Toronto. This is Margaret's second year in a row. Must be that sea air!

The meeting kicked off with a wonderful slide show



The Nova Scotia Colony

presentation by Regent, Bill Curry, covering Plymouth, MA and other points of interest in modern Massachusetts. This was followed by an extremely interesting and entertaining talk by local historian, Ian Lawrence, who spoke about the *Mayflower* passengers and

descendants who came to Annapolis County.


Lunch followed, and many took advantage of the Pine's beautiful restaurant. Just sitting there fires up the imagination, thinking of all the rich and famous who have snacked at lunch or dined in sumptuous luxury, resplendent in dinner attire, in days past.

Treasurer Gary Archibald took over after lunch to lead the group in a game of "Getting to Know the *Mayflower* Passengers," as well as a highly successful raffle!

The day wrapped up with two concurrent sessions. Those new to the Society and needing help working on their lines, some twenty in number, went off with Historian, Judi Archibald, while the rest of us settled down to the obligatory Annual General Meeting, which was mercifully short due to the skilled leadership of our Regent and his able Secretary, Wilfred Allan.

Further details, and the minutes of the AGM will be available on our website:

<http://www.mayflownovascotia.ca/>

Many thanks to Bill and the Executive for an entertaining, and highly successful meeting at a truly memorable location! 



Swine, Sheep and Goats




Swine were also numerous and widespread, goats were raised by those who lived in wild places and could not raise cattle. Swine were raised for meat and some lard with sows being bred from one year old to about seven or eight with one boar servicing ten sows. Young swine under one year old were slaughtered for pork and older hogs above two years old were used for

brawn. The typical farm would have some sows aged from one to seven, numerous gelded and spayed barrow hogs raised for meat, possibly one boar, and young shoates under 1 year old raised for pork.

Goats were raised for milk, meat, skins and possibly hair with the young kids being slaughtered and the she goats being bred from between one to three years old to eight years old. Primarily the young kids and probably the older individuals were eaten. Swine, as represented in the probates, was sporadic in their occurrence with some decades yielding high counts but the subsequent one being fairly low. Yet swine are fairly well represented archaeologically..

Sheep appear initially to have been raised by a few people for meat and as the century went on, more people began to raise them and their wool became potential economic commodity. Cattle, initially rare and precious in the 1620s, boomed in the 1630s due to the need for them in Massachusetts Bay Colony, only to become surplus with the crash of the market in the 1640s. The cattle economy may have rebounded in the 1670s and 1680s as Plymouth began supplying the West Indies sugar Plantations with beef and livestock.

The research into the livestock of Plymouth Colony will continue as well as investigations into how the husbandry and foodways practices changed in the 18th and 19th century. This will be investigated in a way similar to the 17th century study, through the use of period books, probates and wills and archaeology. 


Ancestors that Missed The *Mayflower* By Maureen McGee

The original plan was for two ships to sail to America together. The *Mayflower*, chartered by the London investors (the Adventurers) was to have been accompanied by the *Speedwell*, a ship purchased by the Separatists from Leiden, Holland. The plan was that the *Speedwell* would stay in New England and be used for fishing. The fish could then be sent back to England to repay the Adventurers and to give them some return on their investment.

Of the 300 or so the Separatists in Leiden, Holland, only about 50 chose to leave for America in 1620 and almost half of these were children. The rest were to follow. They left Holland on July 21, 1620 and sailed for Southampton to join the *Mayflower*. At Southampton, they were joined by approximately 70 Strangers recruited by the Adventurers.

On August 5th, 1620 the two ships sailed from Southampton but, after a few days at sea, the *Speedwell* was leaking so much that the ships decided to return to Dartmouth so the *Speedwell* could be repaired. Two weeks later the ships again set sail for New England but had to turn back a 2nd time due to the leaking *Speedwell*. This time they docked at Plymouth and *Mayflower* set sail from Plymouth without the *Speedwell*.

About 20 passengers were bumped from the voyage. William Ring, his wife, Mary (Durrant) Ring and their three children were among this group. Robert Cushman, who along with William Ring and his family, had been on the *Speedwell* wrote to his friend, Edward Southworth, "Poor William Ring and myself doe strive who shall be meat first for ye fishes, but we look for a glorious resurrection."

William Ring must have perished in Leiden before 1629 because his wife, Mary, and their three children who were now in their late teens or early twenties, Elizabeth (my ancestor), Susanna and Andrew arrived in Plymouth about 1629 or 1630. They were among the last of the Leiden Congregation to come to Plymouth. Mary died in July of 1631 at the age of 51. The inventory of her estate provides evidence that she was a woman of means and intelligence. She signed her will with her name, owned books and had debts owing to her from England and from Governor Bradford and other Plymouth residents. 

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