# The Canadian Pilgrim

A publication of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants

The CSMD is a member society of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants



#### Governor's Report

I am deeply saddened to report that our former acting Historian, Donna Denison, passed away after a short illness on 2 February 2019. Donna served as Co-Historian for a number of years under former Historians Nathan Mean and Susan Roser. Donna was the first contact for many applicants and she always offered helpful advice. She stepped into the role of Historian on an acting basis in 2017. The onset of illness in the summer of 2018 forced Donna to retire as acting Historian but not before she also managed to find us a company to update the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants' website and database - which were on an outdated platform that could no longer be supported. Many condolences posted on our Facebook page expressed how Donna had been helpful to them in proving their descent from Mayflower Pilgrims. I was honoured to attend Donna's lovely memorial service in Toronto on Sunday, February 10 on behalf of the Society. Donna's daughter Laura;, son Tim, grandchildren Kaitlin, Chloe, Ali, and Rachael; and friends all gave lovely eulogies. At the end of the ceremony, her grandchildren released two white doves outside into the bright crisp air. Donna was a terrific volunteer for CSMD, and, I'm pleased to say, that she also became a

good personal friend. She will be missed.

By the time you read this, our new website and database will have been launched. It will retain the same URL: CSMD.org. I would also like to commend our Board for moving quickly to make this happen, and especially thank Paul Roney, Database Administrator; Maureen McGee, Treasurer; Susan Roser, Member-at-Large; and Ian Cook, Member-at-Large. I think you will agree that the design and navigability are first-rate.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will note that Darrel Kennedy, the Assiniboine Herald of the Canadian Heraldic Authority, has sent us the preliminary drawings for our new armorial bearings, badge, and flag. Your Board of Assistants struck a committee on heraldry last year to consider designs and to make recommendations. The committee consisted of Dr. George Nye, Surgeon and D.A. 'Sandy' Fairbanks, Counsellor, and myself. There will be some minor changes to the silhouette of the Mayflower in the base of the shield to make it conform better to the ship's original design, but otherwise it will remain substantially the same. We trust that you will be as thrilled as we are with our new arms.

Respectfully submitted,

George G. McNeillie III UE

Governor



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# The Canadian Pilgrim In this issue

#### **Newsletter of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants**

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www.themayflowersociety.org



You will need your GSMD membership number to create an account and log in to members only content.

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Financial statements can be accessed here: https://1drv.ms/ b/s!AnR5to9v9U gyh41xerV3GyGzy-SKrw

# PLANS FOR THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAYFLOWER HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED. HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING. PROGRAMS IN THREE COUNTRIES ARE PLANNED. BY CHRISTOPHER GAVIN UPDATED ON MARCH 18, 2019

When the Pilgrims sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to the Massachusetts shore in 1620, the impact of their journey would extend far beyond the history of the New World.

But Amanda Lumley doesn't think people know the true story.

And now, with the 400th anniversary coming up next year, Lumley says telling the breadth of all of it — from the Pilgrims' time across the pond to their first interactions with the Wampanoag tribe — will be a core focus of a series of commemorative events.

"We want people to understand it was not as straightforward as a lot of people wanted to leave and they got on a ship," said Lumley, chief executive of Destination Plymouth, in Plymouth, England.

Organizations in four nations — the U.S., England, the Netherlands, and the Wampanoag Nation — will tell that story through dozens of events and projects slated to kick off next month and run throughout next year, organizers said this week.

Together, each will highlight the voyage of the Mayflower and the Pilgrims, including how some aboard the famed ship originated from Holland before setting sail on September, 16, 1620 from Plymouth, England, officials said.

Their journey would ultimately lead them to Cape Cod — modern-day Provincetown — on November 21 that year.

"That day, the settlers wrote the Mayflower Compact. Signed by 41 men on board, the compact was an agreement to cooperate for the general good of the colony," a statement from Plymouth 400 said. "They would deal with issues by voting, establish constitutional law and rule by the majority. This was later claimed to be the foundation of American democracy."

Anniversary celebrations in Massachusetts include a maritime salute in Plymouth, a traveling regional exhibit on Wampanoag history, and a weeklong series of festivities leading up to Thanksgiving, among other events.

Here's what's on the schedule so far over the next year:

### April 17, 2019: Opening Ceremony at the American Ancestors headquarters, Boston, 10 a.m.

American Ancestors and the New England Historic Genealogical Society will host an opening ceremony for the commemoration at its headquarters, 99-101 Newbury St. Boston headquarters. Festivities include the "launch" of a Mayflower replica and the unveiling of the "Wampanoag Legacy Art Installation," according to a statement.

Also opening that day is the "Origins & Legacy of the *Mayflower*," multi-media exhibit, which "considers the back stories of the *Mayflower* passengers — where they came from in England and what is known about their ancestry," organizers said.

#### Calendar of Events in England.

## The *Mayflower* 400 events programme

The official *Mayflower* 400 commemorations include an exciting year-long programme of ambitious cultural and artistic events.

Dazzling lights shows, unforgettable festivals, touring exhibitions and world class events will captivate a memorable 12 months of commemoration from November 2019, as four nations mark the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the *Mayflower*.

The Pilgrims' enterprising spirit will run through a bold yearlong programme - from vibrant community events to breathtaking large-scale festivals - a truly global moment in history as we recognise the impact the iconic *Mayflower* voyage had on the world.

The year-long programme begins with the stunning Illuminate festival of thanksgiving and light in November 2019 and the official *Mayflower* closing ceremony will be Illuminate November 2020. You can get involved with Mayflower events now as the cities, towns and villages of *Mayflower* 400 are already staging events.

#### 2020 Mayflower

programme highlights include the Mayflower Muster in Plymouth, a nine-day festival incorporating the 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower's* departure from the seafaring city in September 2020 with spectacular displays and support from the city's Armed Forces, a Pilgrim

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An open house with programs and other activities will follow from 11 a.m. through 8 p.m.

#### June 2019/2020: "Heritage Tours" led by the New England Historic Genealogical Society

Two tours, one in June and another the following year, will take participants to the Netherlands and England, respectively, to trace the history of the Mayflower and the Pilgrims, from the town in Holland where some once lived to how passengers boarded the ship. More information is available on the society's website.

#### April 24, 2020: Plymouth 400 Commemoration Opening Ceremony, Memorial Hall, Plymouth

Guest speakers, artists, and others will take part in a ceremony and spectacle "honoring the past and celebrating the future," according to Plymouth 400. "VIP invitations" include national and foreign leaders.

#### June and September 2020: "A New England Sojourn"

New England Historic Genealogical Society experts will lead two tours (three days each) to "historic sites in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts associated with the Pilgrims, including Plymouth, Provincetown, Boston, Duxbury, and elsewhere," according to the society's website. A tour itinerary is forthcoming.

#### June 27 and 28, 2020: Maritime Salute, Plymouth Harbor/waterfront

A regatta of wooden ships and other vessels will honor the original Mayflower journey, organizers say. Participants can also expect a seaside lobster dinner.

#### Aug. 1, 2020: "Wampanoag Ancestors Walk," Plymouth

People from the Wampanoag tribes of Massachusetts will lead participants on a walk while carrying placards of the names of the original 69 villages of the Wampanoag Nation, according to Discover the Pilgrims story organizers. "Participants will pay homage to Massasoit and King Phillip and stop at designated sites to bless the spots where their ancestors once walked," Plymouth 400 said. "The walk will conclude with a drum ceremony and reception."

#### Sept. 7 through 14, 2020: Mayflower II visits Provincetown

The Mayflower II, a replica of the historic vessel, will arrive in Provincetown for a week of activities on Sept. 7, according to Provincetown 400. "During the visit, Mayflower II, will be part of the daily historical reenactments of the Signing of the Mayflower Compact in Provincetown Harbor in 1620," organizers say. "These historical reenactments will enable the public to witness the history that happened in Provincetown waters in 1620." A "Sunrise Toast and Bon Voyage" event is slated for Sept. 14, the day the ship leaves Provincetown for Plymouth.

Sept. 12, 2020: Mayflower II Gala, Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum, Provincetown

A gala commemorating the signing of the Mayflower Compact, complete with food, drinks, and historical reenactments is planned, according to Provincetown 400. Additional information is yet to be announced.

#### Sept. 14, 2020: State House salute, Massachusetts State House, Boston

A ceremony honoring the Pilgrims and native people of Massachusetts will be held on Beacon Hill and will feature the rare display of Gov. William Bradford's journal.

Conference at Worcester Cathedral; a touring exhibition of the Wampum belt and the Southampton Maritime festival.

You can download a complete overview of the international Mayflower 400 programme here and a detailed guide to the programme of commemorations in Plymouth, UK here.

View our listed events below or search by destination to find Mayflower 400 events taking place in locations across England.

https://www.mavflower400uk.org/

#### Calendar of Events in the Netherlands



In 2020 it will be 400 years ago that the Mayflower 400 sailed to America, with the Pilgrims on board. They are seen as the founding fathers of the United States and today have around 25 million American descendants (including nine presidents, including Barack Obama). Before they founded Plymouth Colony, they spent twelve years in Leiden, free from religious persecution by the English crown.

The Pilgrims are part of a fascinating period in Leiden's history during the Golden Age. Brewster taught at the University that had just been founded, John Robinson took part in the Arminian debates, Clusius grew the first tulips around the corner and the young Rembrandt went to the Latin school. It was no coincidence that

#### Sept. 19 and 20, 2020: "Embarkation Festival," Plymouth

The culture and arts festival will "honor the traditions, cuisine, and music of not only the original settlers and Wampanoag people but the diverse immigrants who followed and contributed to the fabric of American life," Plymouth 400 said. International leaders, students, and celebrities will be invited to join.

## Oct. 30 through Nov. 1, 2020: "Indigenous History Conference and Powwow," Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater

Speakers and experts will discuss and highlight "the longevity and continuity of America's indigenous people," including their past and current contributions, organizers said. The conference will conclude with a traditional Powwow.

#### Nov. 20 through 25: Thanksgiving events, Plymouth

A weeklong series of celebrations leading up to Thanksgiving will include concerts, a parade, and, among other festivities, a "Once Small Candle" ceremony, which will give the "One Small Candle Award" to someone "who has made a difference in many lives at a young age," Plymouth 400 said.

#### Ongoing: "Our' Story: 400 Years of Wampanoag History,"

The regional traveling exhibit aims to educate others about key pieces of Wampanoag history. According to Plymouth 400, "This exhibition, created by a Wampanoag research and design team, travels regionally. The exhibit expands each year leading up to 2020 with new 'chapters' in the history and culture of the 'people of the dawn." For more information, check out the Plymouth 400 website. <a href="https://plymouth400inc.org/OurStory">https://plymouth400inc.org/OurStory</a>

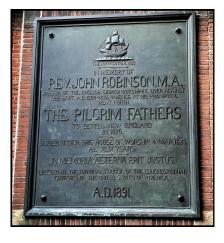


Pilgrims from England ended up in Leiden, Huguenots, Flemish and Walloons were also welcomed by Leiden with open arms; city of refugees and freedom (in terms of religion, freedom of the press and science).

Partly influenced by this 'perception of freedom' in Leiden, their journey to America in 1620 subsequently unmistakably changed world history. We can still see part of that influence now; the oldest street in the US is called 'Leyden Street' and civil marriage (a Dutch legal 'innovation' to which Pilgrims attached great importance) is at the basis of the separation between church and state in America.

Every year the story itself is extensively discussed in the US during Thanksgiving, but in 2020 this influential journey will be commemorated internationally by 'four nations' (NL, UK, US and the Wampanoagh Nation in Massachussetts) with an extensive annual program on in the field of culture, heritage, education, sports, science and tourism.

https://www.visitleiden.nl/nl/ontdek-leiden/specials/pilgrim



# COLONIES IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND NEW ENGLAND

### FORGED EARLY CONNECTIONS

Thomas Dermer, a friend of John Mason, spent several years in Cupids. There he met **Squanto**, a Native American from Massachusetts, who had been taken to Spain and spent time in London before arriving in Cupids.



Trying to establish friendship with the Native People of

Massachusetts, Dermer took Squanto back to New England in 1619. Dermer, fatally wounded in the attempt, wrote a letter advising English settlers to establish themselves at an abandoned Native village. The Pilgrims arrived in 1620 and followed Dermer's advice, settling in the village that Captain John Smith had named Plymouth six years before. In 1621 Squanto joined the Plymouth colony as an advisor, ambassador and translator.

When John Mason left Newfoundland and returned to England, he actively encouraged settling New England. Mason was appointed Vice-Admiral of New England but he died before he could visit there. His efforts led to the founding of settlements in both Maine and New Hampshire.

2010 was a watershed year for Cupids, Canada's oldest English settlement—it marked the 400th anniversary of its founding by John Guy in 1610. The Cupids Legacy Centre was built to commemorate that event, and to house a state-of-the-art exhibit illuminating the town's long historical and cultural narrative.

# No Thanksgiving Day without Newfoundland

"Newfoundland"? Don't we mean Massachusetts and its Pilgrims? As strange as it may seem, there is a connection. The year is 1614 and no Mayflower Pilgrims have yet arrived but are living in the Netherlands city of Leiden. Meanwhile in America, an English ship captain, Thomas Hunt, kidnaps 27 aboriginals from tribes near Cape Cod, to sell them into slavery in Spain. And here the connection begins.

One of Hunt's kidnapped natives was Tisquantum, known to American history as "Squanto." He served as a slave in Spain for about four years and then escaped with the help of a man who was in the Spanish port delivering dried fish. Dried fish? Yes, from the Newfoundland settlement of Cuper's Cove, today called Cupids. Freed, Squanto was first taken to London where he stayed with a major investor in the Newfoundland trade. The latter man soon sent him out to the colony.

While living in Cupids, Squanto was able to converse readily in three languages, his native Algonkian, Spanish, and English. He became a friend of the Newfoundland governor and of a resident explorer called Thomas Dermer, who had once served under John Smith of the Pocahontas story. Squanto and Dermer often talked of the New England region they had formerly known, both of them wanting to get back. Eventually Dermer was able to get a British commission to sail there, and Squanto came with him as interpreter. But when they reached the country of the Patuxet, Squanto's tribe, they found it completely abandoned, the bones of people lying on the ground. Squanto was permitted to stay behind, probably to search for survivors.

The year is now late 1620. The Leiden "Pilgims" sailed in the Mayflower to what was supposed to be the Dutch colony along the Hudson River. They came short of their intended landfall and instead came ashore at a place that just happened to be near the site of Squanto's former village. No friendly natives welcomed them. Not only did the indigenous people remember the outrageous

kidnapping by the white man Hunt, but they watched from their hiding places as the Pilgrims, hungry and desperate, broke into Indian burial mounds where they found many baskets of corn and other burial goods.

The following spring, the new settlers were surprised to see a lone visitor, an Abenaki native who went by the name of Samoset, or Somerset, and who greeted then in broken English. He acquainted them with the territory all around and with news of a great epidemic that had decimated several tribes in the area just a couple of years before. Samoset left the following day but later returned with others, Squanto being among them. The great chief in this region seemed willing to negotiate but both sides were very wary. At that point, Squanto used his knowledge of English ways gained in Newfoundland to ease tensions between settler and native, so that leaders of the two sides could meet and work out a treaty.

The first American Thanksgiving took place a little later in 1621, after the Pilgrims' first successful harvest. Squanto had remained with them, teaching them how the natives planted and fertilized corn, fished, and performed other skills necessary for survival. The traditional view of a friendly feast has been challenged in recent years by pointing out that the wary natives were pushed into negotiations only by the severity of their own situation. As always, I think, the truth must be somewhere in the middle. Certainly on the part of the Pilgrim governor Bradford, there was much appreciation of Squanto's role, which he expressed in biblical terms as God graciously providing for the newcomers in the unfamiliar land.

Squanto proved he was intelligent enough to understand generally the religion of each of the Europeans with whom he spent time, and was diplomatic enough to adjust accordingly. The Newfoundland source I have used claims that in addition to his native beliefs, he became "a good Catholic" through the efforts of "the genial friars" in Spain, was later converted by the wife of the Newfoundland governor "into a sound High Churchman" of the (Episcopalian) Church of England, and finally seemed to become a Protestant "Brownist" like the Pilgrims. At his death in 1622, Squanto asked governor Bradford to pray for him that he "might goe to ye Englishman's God in heaven." Among the Pilgrims his passing "was most sincerely lamented."

Book reference: A History of Newfoundland, a large classic work by Newfoundland Judge D.W. Prowse, published in 1895.

#### Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants Receives A Grant of Arms, Flag, and Badge

The Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants will shortly be granted armorial bearings by the Canadian Heraldic Authority (CHA), an office of the Governor General of Canada. The grant, which includes arms, flag and badge was designed under the supervision of Darrel Kennedy, Assiniboine Herald and the heralds of the CHA, on recommendations from Canadian Society Governor George McNeillie, Surgeon Dr. George Nye, and Counsellor Sandy Fairbanks, with advice from noted heraldic authority, Fr. Guy Selvester. The preliminary drawings were rendered by Canadian heraldic artist Désirée Kern of Hamilton, Ontario, who will also do the final artwork. The drawings, featured below, will remain essentially the same with some minor changes to the ship's silhouette to make it more faithful to the design of the Mayflower.

The project is the culmination of an idea Governor George McNeillie had eight years ago when he applied for his own arms from the CHA, and incorporated his Mayflower heritage in the motto: 'To Be a Pilgrim' (taken from the hymn by John Bunyan). When McNeillie was elected Captain of the Society in 2011, he canvassed the Board of Assistants for their thoughts and was given encouragement to proceed. However, with a busy career, family, and volunteer life, along with his responsibilities as Governor of the Canadian Society for the past six years, the project remained on the back burner until last year. McNeillie approached the Board which agreed enthusiastically and proposed that a committee on heraldry be struck to pursue the project. Fellow Board members Dr. George Nye and Sandy Fairbanks agreed to serve and the CHA was provided with some initial design recommendations.





McNeillie also sought input from his friend Fr. Guy Selvester, one of America's foremost heraldry experts.

The cardinal rule of heraldry is to keep things simple (arms that try to incorporate too many symbols are sometimes referred to as 'kitchen sink' achievements). The CHA provided invaluable input to ensure that the designs proposed by the committee were faithfully rendered. The results, we trust you will agree, are spectacular new arms for the Canadian Society!

The arms and badge can be employed in a variety of ways: on the new CSMD website; on letterhead; on flags; on Canadian certificates and membership cards; on gentlemen's ties and ladies scarves; and on signage, to name but a few uses.

In the language of heraldry, called a blazon, the various elements are described as follows, along with an explanation of the symbolism:

**Arms:** Gules a three-masted ship under full sail flying from each mast a flag of St. George, on a chief dancetty of two points Argent three escallops of the first. Red and white are colours of Canada. The ship represents the *Mayflower*, the English ship that conveyed the Pilgrims to New England in 1620. The shells are a symbol of a pilgrim, thus referring to the ship's passengers.

**Crest:** On a torse of the field of these colours Argent and Gules, a Canada jay perched on a split granite boulder Proper charged with the number 1620.

The Canada jay (grey jay) with its maple leaves represents the Canadian identity of the Society. The boulder represents Plymouth Rock in Plymouth, Massachusetts, traditional landing spot of the Pilgrims in 1620.

Motto: 'May Flowers Flourish.' While being a pun on the name Mayflower, the motto also evokes a hope of growth of the Society.

Flag: The flag is a banner of the arms

**Badge:** Dimidiated: to dexter oak leaves Proper, and to sinister maple leaves Gules, both fructed Proper and encircled within a belt Gules embellished and inscribed with the Motto 'Patrum Memoriae Fidelis' ('Be Faithful to the Memory of Your Ancestors') all Argent.

The badge shows oak leaves on the left side and maple leaves on the right side, both with their respective seeds, acorns and maple keys, within a belt inscribed with the motto 'Patrum Memoriae Fidelis.' The oak leaves represent the mother country England and the maple leaves Canada. Trees are traditionally used as symbols in genealogy and the seeds point to future growth of the Society.

The Canadian Heraldic Authority (CHA) is the government service that creates coats of arms, flags and badges. The CHA was created in 1988 when the governor general of Canada was authorized by Letters Patent to exercise the Sovereign's powers related to heraldry in Canada. The governor general is the head of the CHA, and appoints its officers, who are called heralds. It works to the highest standards of the art form, and its practices are at an international level of excellence. The work of the CHA includes: the creation of arms, flags and badges; the recording of historical emblems; the approval of badges and flags of the Canadian Armed Forces; the recording of First Nations emblems; and the promotion of Canadian heraldry.

# Pilgrim Fathers set off in the *Mayflower* from Cornwall not Plymouth, Historian Claims By Gabriella Swerling, Social and Religious Affairs Editor, The Telegraph

Almost 400 years ago, 100 colonists set off from the shores of England, bound for the New World. The ship which transported the first English Pilgrims from England to America in 1620 is renowned for forming part of the country's history - and its creation myth.

It has long been believed that Plymouth, Devon, was their last stop in the Old World. However a historian claims to have uncovered new evidence to prove that, in fact, The Mayflower left from its rival county in Cornwall. John Chapman, 72, says research has proved the Mayflower stopped for fresh water in Newlyn as it headed for the New World - confirming a theory strongly believed by residents in

the Cornish seaside fishing port.

While history's accepted version of events details the ship carrying 100 colonists set sail from Plymouth on September 6, 1620, on a second attempt to reach Virginia, Mr Chapman, a retired policeman, claims a respected librarian who died in 1989 has uncovered the truth. He said: "Bill Best Harris was a Plymouth librarian responsible for all libraries and many archives in the area. "He had unrivalled access to a vast amount of historical information. "It is commonly accepted that Bill believed that he had uncovered the location where *Mayflower* finally made ready for the voyage - not at Plymouth but at Newlyn instead.

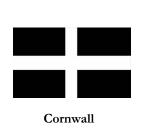
"He said Plymouth was racked by a cholera outbreak at the time which would have made it an unlikely landing place. "After all the delays, the fresh water for the two-month voyage was now on the turn and Plymouth water was at risk of spreading cholera infection. "A port well away from Plymouth was needed to obtain fresh water and offload the cargo which was causing *Mayflower* to be dangerously overloaded."

Mr Chapman from Leland, Cornwall, added: "Apparently Bill Best Harris did establish a connection but all his research was lost when his weekend home was destroyed by fire." As a result, his findings are subject to debate but the evidence must be out there somewhere." However Luke Pollard, Labour MP for Plymouth Sutton and Devonport, said that despite the 'revelations', he is not worried about Plymouth's historic claim to fame. "The documentary evidence that Plymouth was the last English port the Pilgrims stopped at before their long voyage to America is considerable and so I don't fear our claim is at risk," he said. "Friendly rivalry is a common feature of West Country relations and we love our Cornish brothers and sisters dearly, but on this occasion, I think we will have to agree to disagree on the *Mayflower*."

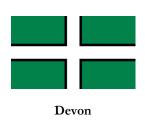
The main source for the story of the *Mayflower* comes from a first-hand account from one of the *Mayflower's* passengers, William Bradford, who went on to become the second governor of the fledgling colony of Plymouth. In later years he co-wrote a history of the colony and includes details of the voyage. (*Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*—2 April 2019)











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#### 2018 Conference and Annual General Meeting

The 2018 Conference and Annual General Meeting was held in Port Maitland, Nova Scotia on 28 and 29 September, 2018. The conference was well attended with 74 people taking part in the weekend's proceedings. We had a wonderful presentation from Susan Roser, the Assistant Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and Canadian Co-Historian, on Friday evening, followed by a very entertaining session of story-telling from Laurent d'Entremont.

Saturday saw a superb presentation from Garnet Purdy about Native ancestry tracking back to the folks on the shore when the Mayflower arrived in Plymouth in 1620! His talk was informative and moving and highly educational!

This was followed by Mayflower members speaking about their ancestors and their lines - well researched and very enjoyable. Susan Roser spoke again, this time on the GSMD Conference and plans for 2020 in Plymouth.

The afternoon concluded with a joint session where non-members went with Colony historian and new Canadian C-Historian, Judi Archibald to learn about how to apply for Mayflower lineage proofs, and the other session was the AGM. The minutes of the AGM are here.

The weekend meetings concluded with general good wishes until we meet again in Middleton, NS on 20 and 21 September 2019.

#### **Contact the Nova Scotia Colony of Mayflower Descendants:**

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THE NOVA SCOTIA **COLONY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS** 

The Mission of the

Nova Scotia

