



LOOKING BACK....



(Past Governor, Mel Donald has been involved in the Canadian Society from its beginnings. At the request of the Editor, Mel has prepared the following, showing how he became involved in his Mayflower research and the formation of our Society.)

In 1964, my wife and I and our three children returned to Canada from fifteen years missionary service in Ethiopia. In the Fall of 1966 I was preparing for a missions deputation speaking tour in the Maritimes. As it happens, my father and mother were born and brought up in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and I had cousins all over the Maritimes. (My parents and aunts and uncles were all deceased.)

Our second youngest daughter had received a Grade 7 Social Studies assignment to do some work on her family tree. So when she realized I was going to be visiting my family roots areas, she charged me to find out something about our family history. I had never paid any attention to that subject, knew pratically nothing of my antecedents.

When I got to N.B. and N.S. I started to ask questions, visit archives, county records, etc. I was soon able to unearth a fair amount of information on both my father's and mother's sides, and, to my surprise, discovered that my mother's forbears had come over from Masachusetts to Nova Scotia in the 1760's, after "the plains of Abraham" and the cessation of the Seven Years War between France and Britain.

When I realized the Mass. connection, I thought of the Mayflower Pilgrims and wondered if there might possibly be some tie-in-between them and my Mass. forbears. A few months later some Mission business took me down to New York City for a few days, and in my off-hours I spent time in the 42nd St. Public Library where there is a huge genealogical section. To my surprise, and delight, I soon uncovered that indeed, yes, my N.S. forbears were Mayflower descendants.

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I discovered that there was even a "Society of Mayflower Descendants" with headquarters in Plymouth, Mass. I wrote to them and Lucy Kelloggg, who was the Historian-General, advised me how to go about joining. Inasmuch as there was no Canadian Society she suggested that I, like evidently a number of other Canadians before me, should apply through a State Society in a state close to Ontario - she suggested Michigan.

So that I did. Soon I was a member of the Michigan State Society, paid my annual dues, never went to any of their functions, but received their mailings. And mentally I resolved that when I retired and had some extra time I would try to get a Canadian Society started. All this was about 1968.

Then suddenly, in the spring of 1980, I started to receive correspondence about starting a Society in Canada. Evidently Dr. J.G. McGivern, a semi-retired Jesuit priest, working in the archives of the Archdiocese of Toronto, had written to the General Society about this possibility

In May of 1980 Robert Thurtle, Chairman of the General Society Membership Committee advised Dr. McGivern that there were 77 General Society members resident in Canada, 45 in Ontario alone. In part he wrote, "I think the Charter should be granted to Ontario. Then any members in the other provinces can request permission from Ontario to form a Colony where they wish." Twenty members signed the petition which was sent with their lineages and proof of good standing to Mr. Thurtle.

As the weeks went by it was soon apparent that there were over 20 people who qualified. In fact 29 showed real interest. Arrangements were made for an inaugural meeting to be held in the Fall. It was at this meeting that our Society elected its first executives: Dr. McGivern, Governor; Col. Harry Pierce, Deputy Governor; Mrs. Lynn O'Keefe, Secretary; Miss Margaret Owen, Captain and myself as Treasurer. The Society was not named the Ontario Society as Mr. Thurtle had originally suggested but, more properly, the Canadian Society.

Mr. Thurtle and Governor General Lowe came up from the States to present the Charter on Oct. 18th, 1980 in Toronto. Although it contained 29 names, #28, a Mr. Warner of Ottawa never joined so his number was then assigned to someone else who joined subsequently. So, in all, we had 28 Charter members.

In the next 12 months Dr. McGivern called his committee together two or three times, but no minutes were ever made or kept. A Society tea was held in Toronto and Dr. McGivern began a Society paper, the "Canadian Pilgrim". He also served as the Society Historian.

The first annual Compact Dinner was held Nov. 21, 1981 at the Holiday Inn in Toronto with approximately 35 in attendance. Meanwhile Dr. McGivern, who had built up a valuable genealogical library, including a complete set of the New England Register, donated his collection to the Society and had it transferred to Col. Pierce's home in Toronto.

In the early Spring of 1982, 18 months after our inauguration, Dr. McGivern visited Plymouth to confer with the Historian-General concerning our applications. Upon his return to Toronto, within a

few days, was suddenly stricken with a fatal heart attack. Col. Pierce moved into the Governorship and Historian role, and asked me to serve as Deputy Governor as well as Treasurer.

Our Spring Tea, 19 Feb. 1983 was held at the historic McKenzie House in Toronto. We had some Society members in Alberta who were interested in forming a Colony, and Mrs. Margaret Brodylo of Alberta attended. She subsequently became the first Regent of the Alberta Colony.

Gov. Pierce, in a move of genius, asked Susan Roser to become editor of the Society newsletter. At this time, 1983, we began to have some financial problems, the problem being the simple one of expenditures out-running income! Harry didn't call any committee meetings, I used to drop in at his place and chat a bit about Society matters. I advised him, in the spring of 1983 that we would have to postpone next issues of our newsletter due to money troubles.

I then left Toronto on a Western Canada trip, expecting to check in with Harry at the end of the summer. To my amazement and shock, at the end of August '83 I learned instead of his sudden death. So, suddenly I found myself acting as Governor, Deputy Governor, Historian and Treasurer! Our Society was born in the fall of 1980, our first Governor served 19 months, our second, 16 months. There was a fair amount of confusion in the paper work.

Due to this confusion and lack of funds, no plans were made for a Fall Dinner in 1983. At this time we attempted to better organize the administration of the Society. We started a minutes book and began to bring new members into our committee and to parcel out the responsibilities. Margaret Owen consented to become Treasurer, Marshall Dean, Deputy Governor; Mrs. Kate Berscht, Historian; Keith Bain, Captain; Mrs. Ruth Ferguson, Elder and Miss Debbie Clarke, Secretary.

Looking back, our Society had sort of a rough beginning with the sudden deaths of our first two Governors. But then, things smoothed out and it is good to see the progress and growth - now to 116 members! May God continue to bless.

Mel Donald

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REFLECTIONS FROM PAST NEWSLETTERS



VOL.1 #1 (Oct. 1981)

Rev. James McGivern, Governor, reported on the 29th Triennial Congress in Plymouth, including the following:

"The publications committee unveiled an interesting microfiche program. Several viewers were on display, Vol.#4, Brewster Family, hopefully in the spring."

"Amendments to Article #3, eliminating sponsors and moral character requirements, were soundly defeated."

"410 attended the banquet, at the Ridder Country Club. The lights went out shortly after arrival but we all survived and ate well."

Rev. McGivern continues with, "I hope that ideas for the betterment of our group may be coming forward from each person...This first year of organization has been rather hectic, but I am sure with time everything will be straightened out."

VOL.1 #2 (Dec. 1981)

"Very shortly we are to form a small Reading Place to help in the research of our Mayflower families...Naturally we will have a constant need for new and old books. It is our hope to ultimately have the finest of libraries on Mayflower ancestry in Canada."

VOL.1 #3 (Jan. 1982)

The Medallion Fund was begun to help raise money to buy the costly insignia for the Governor and Deputy Governor. A report appears as follows:

"Your executive officers wish to thank all members for their generosity...the following have been most helpful. Particularly one must thank Nathaniel C. Brewster for approaching, by letter, our charter members.

Donors: Madeline Warren Roy Spooner Clyde Soule Nathaniel C. Brewster Beatrice Warmski Leon Warmski Dora Kreiss G. Keith Bain R.D. Hadden H.W.D. Prince Lila Leedy Mary Munn May Schultz Sharon Cadieux"

VOL.1 #4 (Mar. 1982)

From the Governor: "Because of my inexperience there has been some delay in the processing of applications. However, I think we are overcoming most of the difficulties and a goodly number of the applications are completed or in the advanced stage of being completed. Most of this is owing to the kindness and understanding of the new Historian General in Plymouth, Mr. Eugene Stratton. His patience can truly be said to be marvellous, especilly when one realizes the tremendous task that is his of processing all the applications of Canada and the United States."

Welcome Aboard!

We have eight new members to report! However, since all the pertinent information did not reach the Editor in time, a proper listing will be found in the next issue.

Our new members are: Penelope Hanneberry, Mrs. Kim Prince, Rosemary Jenkins, Paul White, J. Donald Kelley, Catherine Ann Clubb, Susan E. Hill and Catherine R. Hill.

In Memoriam

Mr. George Allen Tingley

4 July 1990

It is with deep regret that we report the death of George Tingley, the Assistant Regent of the Alberta Colony.

Mr. Tingley served with the R.C.A.F. in World War II and later taught at the Public School Board & Alberta Vocational Centre for 35 years. He was a member of the First Church of Nazarene and was a recipient of the church's Distinguished Service Award. A descendant of Richard Warren, Mr. Tingley joined our Society in 1988.

Our most sincere condolences to his wife, Dorothy, and family.

FROM THE GOVERNOR

Another summer has quickly slipped by and it is time for our fall newsletter to be put together and mailed.

As I mentioned in the spring newsletter, the Triennial Congress of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants was to be held in Plymouth, Mass. from Sept. 8th to 11th. A strong contingent from our Society attended to represent Canada and we were very cordially received. A full report by Leon Warmski on the proceedings appears elsewhere.

This of course is a significant year in the life of our Society because it is our 10th Anniversary and, as you will notice, this issue is centered on that theme. We are still small in number and our resources relatively meagre but each year we manage to make a little more progress and our membership inches upward. If it were not for the dedicated people who are willing to serve on the Board of Assistants and take on extra duties with no complaint, we would never have survived to see our 10th Anniversary.

An exciting Annual Dinner Meeting has been planned for November at the Primose Hotel in downtown Toronto and I would urge as many of you as possible to plan to attend. Please note that we have even been able to keep the price the same as last year. The highlight of the evening, besides the very special birthday cake (complete with candles), will be the after-dinner address by Rev. Melvin Donald, our immediate Past Governor. Mel and his wife Lola spent some weeks this past summer touring Pilgrim country in England & Holland and, of course, visited sites of relevant historic signifigance. Mel will present an illustrated talk on the highlights of their tour. I am sure this will be an excellent evening and a fitting tribute to the 10th Anniversary of our Society.

G. Keith Bain,

Governor

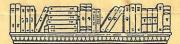
Society News

SPRING TEA REPORT



Our Semi-Annual Meeting & Spring Tea was held 12 May 1990 in Toronto. The highlight of the afternoon was the showing of the video tape, "Plimoth Plantation". This highly informative and entertaining film depicts the Pilgrims in their day to day activities and provides personal insights into their thoughts and beliefs. As well, the actors portraying the Pilgrims are interviewed out of costume and describe their feelings on the people they portray. This is a truly fascinating film that all descendants would enjoy.

In order that our out-of-town members may also have the opportunity of viewing this film we are making it available on loan for a two week period. If you would like to borrow the film, please contact our Treasurer, Allyn Dean and it will be mailed to you. Please ensure that it is returned within the two week period so that it will be available for others.



Library



Historian Arthur Harris has added the following books to our Library:

- 1. They Came In Ships, by John P. Colletta, Ph.D. (from Ancestry Pub.)
- 2. Concise Genealogical Dictionary, by Maurine & Glen Harris (from Ancestry)

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- 3. New England Genealogical Research: A Guide to Sources, by Kip Sperry
- 4. Mayflower Marriages, by Susan E. Roser (from author)

INCREASE IN FEES

Due to an increase in the assessment at Plymouth, annual membership dues are being increased to \$20.00. In response to this increase Life Memberships will increase to \$200.00, effective on 1 Jan. 1991. For those who have been contemplating a Life Membership now is the time! Until Dec. 31st of this year, Life Memberships will be available for only \$175.00.

Please send your 1991 membership to our Soci dues of \$20.00 to Treasurer Allyn in helping,

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

We are pleased to announce that member Paul Hill of Agincourt, Ont. has volunteered to head our Public Relations Committee. Paul is a new member who wasted no time in offering his services and we appreciate his willingness to lend a hand. We also thank Charles Prince of Vancouver who has offered to help in our western provinces.

We are still in need of volunteers from all provinces. Duties are few and you would be doing a great service to our Society. If you are interested in helping, please drop Paul a line.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee, Marshall Dean, Ruth Ferguson and Susan Roser, submit the following nominees for election on the Board of Assistants. Elections will be held at the Banquet in November.

Recording Secretary - Deborah Clarke

Captain

- Kate Berscht

Member at Large

- Leon Warmski

Member at Large - Paul Hill



1980-1990 GOVERNORS 1980-1990

Rev. James McGivern 1980-82
Col. Harry F. Pierce 1982-83
Rev. Melvin Donald 1983-88
G. Keith Bain 1988-





Thirty Second General Congress

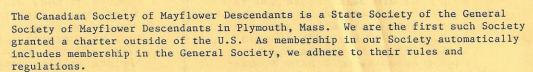


The 32nd Triennial Congress of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants was held in Plymouth, MA Sept. 10-11th, 1990. The Canadian Society was well represented with five delegates, Keith Bain, Marshall Dean, Leon Warmski, Ruth Ferguson and Susan Roser. The following is a shortened report, more detail will be found in the Mayflower Quarterly.

- 1. The attendance of approximately 344 delagates and General Board members represented all but six states.
- 2. The new Library addition is progressing with the foundation laid. Approximately \$209,000 has been donated by members towards the Library Expansion. At the Awards Ceremony at the Banquet on Sept. 11th, Margaret Brodylo, Past Regent of the Alberta Colony was recognized for her contribution of over \$1,000 and was awarded a certificate which our Society accepted on her behalf.
- 3. The lineage papers are being microfiched with primary documents being put on computer.
- 4. Considerable progress has been made on the Five Generations Project. The Edward Fuller family has now been published as a Silver book and is available for sale (\$21.00 U.S.). Cooke and Howland are being reviewed and prepared and should soon be printed as #5 and #6. Billington and Winslow (combined in one volume) and Priest are nearing completion. Only five families are not represented in MFIP or silver books.
- The new Governor General is Miss Mildred Ramos of Virginia.
- 6. The next Board of Assistants meeting will take place Sept. 5-9th in Oklahoma City at the Waterford Hotel.

Leon Warmski

HOW OUR SOCIETY WORKS



The Canadian Society is run by a Board of Assistants whose names appear on the front page of the newsletter (with the exception of this issue). Each office runs for a 3 year term. When elections are due, a nominating committee is selected by the Board, with the nominations appearing in the fall newsletter. If no additions or corrections are made by Society members, this slate of nominees is voted on at the Fall Banquet in November.

The Board holds meetings four times a year - Jan., Apr., Aug. and Oct., usually at the North York Library in Toronto. Two Society functions are held each year, the Spring Tea in April or May and the Fall Banquet in November. The Canadian Pilgrim is printed twice a year, in the spring and fall.

The Society Library is housed in the Canadiana Section of the North York Library in Toronto. We have a fine collection of Mayflower research books and materials and are continually adding to it. A full listing of our acquisitions is available from our Historian, Arthur Harris.

Within each State Society of the General Society (particularly the larger states), colonies have been formed to enable members to get together and attend functions without the necessity of travelling great distances. Our first colony was formed in the province of Alberta. Twenty members are needed to form a colony and as our membership increases we hope to have each province represented.

MEMBERSHIP **PROCESS**

The processing of membership applications is handled by our Canadian Historian, not the Historian-General in Plymouth. The Historian reviews the application and if additional sources are needed, works with the applicant in obtaining sufficient references. (The application fee is \$20.00.) When the Historian feels the application is complete, it is sent to the Historian-General for approval. (The Historian fee is \$22.00.) The approved application is then returned to our Historian who notifies the applicant and requests the membership fee of \$20.00. The final formality is the election of the member into the Canadian Society by the Board.

Life memberships are available and offer a substantial savings over yearly membership dues. The one time cost is only \$200.00. At present we do not offer Junior memberships, as many of the State Societies do, because we feel we cannot carry out an effective programme for them.



MEMBERSHIP LIST AS OF SEPT. 1990

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Douglas A. Clarke, 38 Dennett Dr., Agincourt, Ont. M1S 2E7 (#73, Standish)
Mrs. Barbara Clarke, 38 Dennett Dr., Agincourt, Ont. M1S 2E7 (#72, Standish)
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Mrs. Ruth Ferguson, 3069 Mallbridge Cr., Mississauga, Ont. L4T 2C5 (#62, Warren)
Mrs. Pauline Fevens, RR#1, Bridgewater, N.S. B4V 2V9 (#95, Rogers)
Mrs. Janice Fochuk, 68 Hope Dr., Box 994, Manotick, Ont. KOA 2NO (#81, Rogers)
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Raymond D. Hadden, 224 N.Main St., Box 297, Port Byron, N.Y. USA (#22, Howland)
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Mrs. Pauline Mattinson, 45 Queen St., Box 496, Chester, N.S. BOJ 1J0 (#28, Howland)
Louise A. McGillray, P.O. Box 88, Gray, Sask. SOG 2AO (#136, Warren)
Bruce G. McGivern (address unknown) (#45, Brewster)
Jonathan J. Milne, 57 Treadgold Cr., Don Mills, Ont. M3A 1X1 (#60, Rogers) Thomas Moorby, 159 Victoria St., Glencoe, Ont. NOL 1M0 (#57, Soule)
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Miss Margaret E. Owen, 2682 Bloor St.W.#3, Toronto, Ont. M8X 1A5 (#7, Soule)
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Mrs. Sally Pengelley, 21 Dale Ave. #516, Toronto, Ont. M4W 1K3 (#52, Brewster)
Mrs. Ruth Peppler, 142 7th St., Hanover, Ont. N4N 2G9 (#55, Brewster)
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BOOK REVIEW

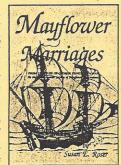
Mayflower Marriages

From the Files of George Ernest Bowman at the

Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants

Susan E. Roser

eorge Ernest Bowman (1860-1941) is a well-known and respected name in the field of Mayflower research. In 1896 he founded the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants and served as editor of the Society's quarterly, the Mayflower Described by Eugene Stratton in his book Plymouth Colony, Its History & People as "the greatest genealogical scholar of Plymouth Colony," he spent more than fifty years of the Mayflower passengers.



In his fifty-year quest he amassed more than 20,000 pages of documented records—everything from probate and land records to church, cemetery, and Bible records. Known as the Bowman Files, this vast collection of records, in the words of the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, "remains the largest documented manuscript resource on Mayflower genealogy."

It is from this magnificent collection that Mrs. Roser has extracted the Mayflower marriage records—10,000 marriages spanning five centuries, with names, dates, and sources! In her transcription of the Bowman Files Mrs. Roser was at pains to show the line of descent with each marriage (as found in the files), thus enabling the reader to trace a genealogy through a marriage. In addition, inter-marriage among Mayflower descendants is shown with the descent of the partner back to the second generation. (There is in fact a separate chapter here showing Mayflower inter-marriages through the eighth generation.) Also included are the names of partners who had a child together but were not married.

For convenience in following the various lines, marriages are listed under the names of the respective Mayflower passengers, and all names in the book can be found in the index. This is a fabulous tool for Mayflower research and worthy of the great name it's linked with.

- 7" x 10". 415 pp., indexed, paperback. 1990. \$29.95 -

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