



Canadian Pilgrim

NEWSLETTER OF

canadian society of mayflower descendants

Fall 1994

Vol. XIV No. 25



DATE: SATURDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 1994

PLACE: ROYAL YORK HOTEL, TORONTO

TIME: 6:00 p.m. **PRICE:** \$38.00

The 14th Annual Meeting & Compact Dinner will be held at the beautiful Royal York Hotel, 100 Front St.W., Toronto (416) 368-2511. Cash bar at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m.

We are very pleased to have as our special guests, the Governor General of the General Society, Col. Robert Allen Greene and his wife Marilyn. We hope our members will make a special effort to come out and help us welcome Col. & Mrs. Greene to Canada!

It is extremely important that you send your paid reservation **NO LATER THAN 28 OCT.** to our Treasurer: Mr. L. Allyn Dean, 86 Constance St., Toronto, Ont. M6R 1S6.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting for those positions whose three year terms have expired. The Nominating Committee (Deborah Clarke, Susan Roser, Judith Gavin) has submitted their slate of nominees as follows:

GOVERNOR - Robert Cruikshank
CAPTAIN - Paul R. Hill

DEPUTY GOVERNOR - Marshall M. Dean
MEMBER AT LARGE - Myrna Geldart

Any member of the Society may also be placed in nomination for any office to be filled, by five members of the Society, but all such nominations must be communicated to the Recording Secretary (Deborah Clarke) by a notice in writing signed by the members making the nomination before the annual meeting. No person shall be eligible to be nominated or elected to the office of the Governor or Deputy Governor who has not served on the Board of Assistants. (Article IX, Section 1)

Dues

Dues are payable by November 30th for the following year. If you are planning to attend the banquet you may pay at that time. For those of you unable to attend, please send your payment to our Treasurer (address above).

LIBRARY NEWS



We wish to thank member Dr. Stephen White of San Francisco for his very generous contribution of \$50.00 U.S. to our Library Fund. As we strive to build a strong research library your donations are greatly appreciated and may be sent to the Treasurer (address on pg.1).

The North York Library has ceased to catalogue our collection which has thrown a further burden upon us. Our Librarian, Arthur Harris and Treasurer, Allyn Dean are currently working on cataloguing our books, as until this is done North York will not accept further additions.

THUMBS UP!

Congratulations to the New York Society of Mayflower Descendants who, on 22 Dec. 1994, will celebrate their 100th Anniversary!!!!

Recipe of the Week:



BY PATIENCE BREWSTER

Turkey Delight

Take one dead turkey
 Pluck it and clean it
 Put turkey in outdoor oven
 for 2 hours
 Baste turkey now and then thusly:
 1 punchoon of scotch
 1 butt of rum
 1 fincken of gin
 1 flagon of brandy
 When it is done, give turkey to
 favorite Indian and drink gravey.

(Colorado Newsletter)

HUNTING ANCESTORS?
 An often overlooked source of records is the World War I Draft Registration Cards. All men living in the United States in 1917 and 1918 who were born between the years 1873 and 1900 had to register, exempt or not. The cards are still available and can be a substitute for birth records, also giving place of birth, closest relative and marital status.
 Write To: National Archives Records or Military Service Records, National Archives (GSA) Washington, DC 20408

 (Member Wayne Colwell of Ottawa sent us the following news clip from the July 16th issue of the "Ottawa Citizen".)

Boston, Cape Cod offer dollar deals

By Jim Fox
 SouthamStar Network

BOSTON — You can fall in love with Old Cape Cod, the Berkshires' summer playground or historic Boston despite the devalued Canadian dollar.

The red carpet remains out to welcome Canadians who can cash in on special deals — including dollars at par — across Massachusetts.

Canada is the top international tourist market for Massachusetts with 600,000 Canadian visitors annually, so the weaker dollar concerns state tourism officials.

The "Sensational Massachusetts Savings" discount program includes more than 20 hotels, campgrounds, attractions and shopping malls in Boston, Bristol County, Cape Cod and Plymouth.

Savings include Canadian dollars at par, fourth night free if you stay three nights; coupon discounts; and gifts with purchases. Proof of Canadian citizenship and reservations are required in the program that continues through the end of the year.

It's expected that, as the program gains momentum, additional hotels, attractions, restaurants and shopping malls will join in, says Abbie Goodman, the state's executive director of tourism.

Nantucket is planning a similar program with significant discounts for Canadians beginning Oct. 1 and continuing through next June 1.

Massachusetts is a "close destination" for many Canadians who enjoy the shopping, culture, beaches and coastline, including whale watching and outdoor food festivals, says Pat McGovern of the state tourism office.

Boston is a gentle blend of old and new and made for walking. Hike along the Freedom Trail, starting downtown at Boston Common and covering six kilometres and 16 historic sites from the Colonial and Revolutionary era.

The city is one of America's oldest and most famous seaports where festivals are featured over the summer.

Quaint seaside villages from the pages of *Moby Dick*, friendly folks and fresh sea-scented air are Cape

Cod and the islands, including Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

Seafood lovers can savor fried clams along the coast from Newburyport to Nantucket. There's the Plymouth Lobster Festival from Aug. 17 to 21; Gloucester's Waterfront Festival, Aug. 20 and 21; Essex Clamfest, Sept. 10; Bourne's Scallop Festival, Sept. 9 to 11; and even a Kielbasa Festival in Chicopee, Sept. 8 to 11.

Next year marks the 375th anniversary of the arrival of the pilgrims to the New World aboard the *Mayflower*.

Plimoth Plantation, a living history museum and home to the *Mayflower II*, is busy preparing special events to commemorate the historic event. Through Nov. 27, Canadians can pay for admission to Plimoth Plantation using Canadian currency.

As well, throughout October there will be a celebration of the Canadian Thanksgiving with visitors able to enjoy a 17th-century style harvest feast with all the trimmings in an authentic setting, served by people in period dress.



Plymouth Colony Records

(Source: **Records of Plymouth Colony**, by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, repr. 1976. The numbering in the original records, e.g. <PCR 8:19> is also included. We began these records in the Spring 1987 Newsletter (with the year 1633) and they are continued in each Fall Newsletter.)

BEIRTHS OF CHILDREN (cont-d, Scituate)

<PCR 8:20> Samuel, son of Walter Hatch, born 22 Dec. 1653
(p.18) Robert, son of Robert Studson, born 29 Jan. 1653
 Gershom, son of Anthony Dodson, born 14 Feb. 1653
<PCR 8:21> Joanna, dau of Ephraim Kemton, born 29 Sept. 1647
 Patience, dau of Ephraim Kemton, born 1 Oct. 1648
 Ephraim, son of Ephraim Kemton, born 1 Oct. 1649
 Lydia, dau of John Turner, born 24 Jan. 1652
 Mannasses, son of Ephraim Kemton, born 1 Jan. 1651
 Deborah, dau of William Berstow, born in Aug. 1650
 William, son of William Berstow, born in Sept. 1652
 John, son of Humphrey Johnson, born in Mar. 1653
 John, son of John Bryant, born 17 Aug. 1644
 Hannah, dau of John Bryant, born 25 Jan. 1645
 Sarah, dau of John Bryant, born 29 Sept. 1648
 Mary, dau of John Bryant, born 24 Feb. 1649
 Martha, dau of John Bryant, born 26 Feb. 1651
(p.19) Samuel, son of John Bryant, born 6 Feb. 1653
 Patience, dau of Ephraim Kemton, deceased 1 July 1648
 Mary, dau of John Bryant, deceased 8 Apr. 1652
 Henery Merritt deceased the last of Nov. 1653
 Katherin Winter deceased 28 Dec. 1653

A Note of the Persons recorded since June last, per me, James Torrey, Towne Clarke of Scituate, sent to March Court, 1654.

Resolved White m. Judith Varssall, dau of William, 8 Apr. 1640
James Adams m. Francis Varssall, dau of William, 16 July 1646
Walter Hatch m. Elizabeth Holbrooke, 6 May 1650
Nathaniell Rawlins m. Lydia Silvester, dau of Richard, 4 Sept 1652
<PCR 8:22> John Damman m. Katherin Merritt, dau of Henery, in June 1644
 William Parker m. Mary Rawlins, dau of Thomas, in Apr. 1639
 William Parker m. Mary Turner, dau of Humphry, 13 Nov. 1651
 Thomas King m. Jane Hatch, widow, 31 Mar. 1653

BEIRTHS OF CHILDREN

William, son of Resolved White, born 10 Apr. 1642
John, son of Resolved White, born 11 Mar. 1644
Samuell, son of Resolved White, born 13 Mar. 1646
William, son of James Adams, born 16 May 1647
Samuell, son of William Wills, born in May 1640
Lydia, dau of William Wills, born in Apr. 1645
Resolved, son of Resolved White, born 12 Nov. 1647
Anna, dau of Resolved White, born 4 June 1649
Elizabeth, dau of Resolved White, born 4 June 1652
Josiah, son of Resolved White, born 29 Sept. 1654
Jonathan, son of James Torry, born 20 Sept. 1654
Anna, dau of James Adams, born 18 Apr. 1649
(p.20) Richard, son of James Adams, born 19 Apr. 1651 & dec. 25 July
 Mary, dau of James Adams, born 27 Jan. 1653
 Lydia, dau of William Hatch Sr., born 7 Jan. 1654
 Elizabeth, dau of Nathaniell Rawlins, born 1 Mar. 1653
 Jonathan, son of John Turner Sr., born 20 Sept. 1646
<PCR 8:23> Joseph, son of John Turner Sr., born 12 Jan. 1647 & dec. 15 Jan.
 Joseph, son of John Turner Sr., born 12 Jan. 1649
 Ezekeiell, son of John Turner Sr., born 7 Jan. 1650
 John, son of John Turner Sr., born 30 Oct. 1654
 Thomas, son of Thomas Pinchin, born 15 May 1640
 Hannah, dau of Thomas Pinchin, born 4 Dec. 1642

(to be cont-d)



Society News

SPRING TEA REPORT



This year the Spring Tea was held June 4th at the home of Board Member, Mrs. Betty Ann Field. Unfortunately at the last moment, because of an illness in the family, Betty was unable to attend. Her husband, David, and their two cats did an excellent job filling in for her, and made us all feel welcome in their home. The cat, Harmony in particular, did his best to represent his mistress by attending all the meetings.

Our Governor, Leon Warmski, opened the business part of the tea with a few words of welcome. He then asked for a volunteer to join Deborah Clarke and Susan Roser on the nominating committee. Their job is to find candidates to run for the positions which will open on the Board of Assistants. The election will be held at the Compact Dinner in November. Mr. Warmski went on to explain that we have booked the Royal York for our Compact Dinner and that the Governor General of the General Society and his wife will be our guests. After discussing these matters we went inside for refreshments.

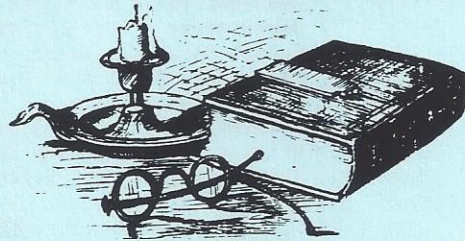
The Fields had just returned from a trip to New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts which included a visit to Plymouth. After an excellent tea, David showed the video they took during their visit. It was most interesting to see the places where our ancestors once lived.

The weather was glorious! A good time was had by all as we renewed old acquaintances and met new "Mayflower cousins" on this perfect June day. Thank you David & Betty Field.

- Deborah Clarke, Rec. Secretary

FROM THE GOVERNOR

We are once again gearing up for our Annual Meeting & Compact Dinner to be held Nov. 12th (see front page for details). I thought I might take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about our special guest, the Governor General, Col. Robert A. Greene.



Col. Greene was born at E. Greenwich, Rhode Island and is descended thru both parents from John Howland thru his daughter Desire Gorham. He served one year in Italy in WWII, one year in Korea, and in 1953 graduated from Bryant College with a BS in Business Administration. Bob & his wife Marilyn have been married 36 years and have four children and six grandchildren.

Bob has been a member, and served in various official capacities, of numerous organizations and societies, including the SAR, Founders & Patriots, Huguenot Society, Colonial Wars, John Howland Society, Victorian Military Society in America, Veteran Motor Car Club of America, U.S. Naval Institute, Masons.....the list goes on and on! He has received commissions as Colonel of the Kentish Guard and Commander of the Rhode Island Naval Militia.

His interests and hobbies include (to name a few) sailing & racing sloops, collecting models of WWI aircraft & 1200 scale WWII naval ships and HO gauge model railroading. He has enjoyed restoring Model T Fords and owns a 1911 Brass, Torpedo Model and a 1923 Victoria Coupe. His large library holdings include genealogy & history and military & naval history.

Bob is currently Deputy Governor of the Rhode Island Society of Mayflower Descendants and has also served as Governor and Captain. In the General Society he has been Chairman of Publications for the Five Generations Project since 1988, was elected Captain General in 1990 and in 1993 was elected Governor General.

I had the pleasure of meeting Col. & Mrs. Greene at the Congress in Plymouth last fall. I look forward to seeing them again and hope our members will join with me in welcoming them to Canada.

- Leon S. Warmski, Governor



*****WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!*****

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following new members:

- Harry J. Mutton, 612 Charlotte St., Peterborough, Ont. K9J 2W8 (#201, #60,351, WHITE)
- Frederick Abraham, 61 Brentwood Dr., Guelph, Ont. N1H 5M6 (#202, #60,556, ROGERS)
- Barbara Sabean, 2400 - 1B Bathurst St., Toronto, Ont. M6B 2Y7 (#203, #60,557, BREWSTER)
- Elizabeth Ann Johnson, 278 Lytton Blvd., Toronto, Ont. M5N 1R6 (#204, #60,656, BREWSTER)



HISTORIAN'S REPORT



Our membership increase for 1993 was a very healthy 35 new members! The numbers are significantly lower this year, we have six new members to date, however, the year is not over yet and the fact that we have had 41 new members in two years is quite a milestone for our Society.

I have instigated a new policy whereby family members who wish to join based on the well documented paper of a current member will pay only the \$35.00 application fee and not the additional Historian fee of \$15. This applies to the immediate family (e.g. children, siblings, parents, grandparents) of Canadian members.

I have files on approximately 40 applicants who are actively working on completing their lineage papers, a few of these are awaiting only one piece of documentation at which time they will be ready for approval. I urge our members across Canada, during this Thanksgiving season, to contact your local newspapers and ask them to do a short piece on our Society with my name and address as the contact person. We have no hopes of building a strong membership if Canadians do not know we exist. If you are successful in having a news article printed, please send a copy to me so that we can mention it in the Spring newsletter.

- Susan E. Roser, Historian



In Memoriam

We extend our sincere condolences to the families of:



Mrs. Gwendolyn Brewster (Wilcocks) Bushell, #185, 27 Feb. 1994. Her granddaughter, Karen Johnson (member #179), took care of all the paper work and surprised her grandmother with a membership just last summer. Mrs. Bushell was also the mother of newly approved member, Ann Johnson.

Mrs. Keith C.W. Dean, 23 July 1994. In our Fall '93 Newsletter we congratulated Mrs. Dean on celebrating her 100th Birthday. Although not a member, she was the mother of Treasurer Allyn Dean and members Elizabeth Doe, Noble Dean, Keith Dean; grandmother of Keith Dean and aunt of Deputy Governor Marshall Dean.



CANADIAN MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

As mentioned in our Spring Newsletter, Canadian Society Membership Certificates are now available to members for the price of \$5.00. New members will continue to receive a General Society certificate but without the signature & seal of the Canadian Governor. This new certificate has been especially designed for Canadian Mayflower descendants and contains the Canadian Society seal, signatures of the Governor & Historian, name of member & ancestor, both Canadian & General numbers, approval date and specifies Life or Annual membership. This attractive certificate, suitable for framing, is the perfect mate to compliment your General Society certificate. To order, please write your name as you would like it to appear, and send along with your payment to our Treasurer.



Dues

1995 membership dues of \$25.00 are due by Nov. 30th and may be mailed to the Treasurer. Life Membership rates are as follows: Age 0-44, \$750; 45-64, \$550; 65 & over, \$250.



TREASURER'S REPORT



The latest member (to date) in the Canadian Society is #204, therefore the membership consists of 74 life members, 83 regular members and 47 who have ceased to be members. Of the 83 regular members, 75 have paid their dues for 1994, leaving 8 members still owing.

The charges for the General Society were \$1796 U.S. or \$2512.60 Canadian. The increase is largely due to the new members last year. Of course, this put a dent in our budget. The permanent fund has \$11,000 in a GIC (should be \$18,500 to be fully funded). The savings account has \$1198.72, the chequing account \$150.42 and the U.S. account \$331.26.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

We received a very nice letter from member Dr. Stephen White of San Francisco. Dr. White very generously donated \$50.00 towards our library fund and commented, "I note in the recent Newsletter that my brother John White has made a contribution and feel I had better keep up with his activities". (Our Society is indeed fortunate to benefit from such healthy "sibling rivalry"!)

Dr. White also purchased the new Canadian Society membership certificate and writes, "Several years ago I wrote the Society and expressed my feelings regarding the wording on the General Society certificate which I felt was inappropriate for Canadian members. I shall be delighted to receive my Canadian certificate." I am sure many of our members share these sentiments.

Congratulations

Our Captain (and nominee for Governor), Robert Cruikshank was conspicuously absent from our June 4th Spring Tea. He had a very good reason however, he was on his honeymoon! Bob was married 27 May 1994 at Toronto to Lorraine St. Onge, a native of Halifax. We extend our warmest wishes to Bob & Lorraine for "heaps of health and happiness"!

Historian/Editor, Susan Roser has just completed her fifth book on Mayflower research. "Mayflower Deeds & Probates" (see below) is available from the Genealogical Pub.Co., 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore MD 21202.

Completion of the series!

Mayflower Deeds & Probates



From the Files of George Ernest Bowman
At the Massachusetts Society of
Mayflower Descendants

Susan E. Roser

Mayflower Deeds & Probates is the last of a three-book series that includes *Mayflower Marriages* (1990) and the two-volume *Mayflower Births & Deaths* (1992). It is a compilation of deeds and probate records extracted and transcribed from the renowned Bowman Files, the largest manuscript collection of Mayflower source records in existence.

The reader will be pleasantly surprised to find herein wills and deeds pertaining to non-Mayflower families, as Bowman often included records pertaining to families of persons who married into the various Mayflower lines.

Other non-Mayflower people, of course, are cited in the probate records as witnesses, appraisers, and administrators. So, although the emphasis is definitely on Mayflower families, this book will appeal to anyone whose lines originate in the counties of Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, or Middlesex.

The several thousand deeds abstracted in this work provide such information as name, occupation, and residence; date, sale, price, acreage, and location of the land; and witnesses and date of recording. The amount of data varies, of course, depending on what was found in the Files.

Will abstracts include bequests to friends and family, descriptions of personal and real estate, and names of witnesses. After the death of the testator the will was probated and letters of administration were granted. These probate records are a goldmine of genealogical information, as they name heirs and their relationship to the deceased, minor children, guardians, and debtors, but such records are especially useful if the person being researched died intestate (without making a will). Above all, wills and probate records are most important in establishing parentage and family relationships, and along with vital records, they are the most important records in genealogical research.

Researchers Note: The index to this indispensable final volume contains 25,000 entries.

7"x10", 659 pp., indexed, paperback. 1994.
ISBN 0-8063-1423-0. \$44.95

THE OLD COLONY CLUB

16th January, 1769

"We whose names are underwritten, having maturely weighed and seriously considered the many disadvantages and inconveniences that arise from intermixing with the company at the taverns in this town, and apprehending that a well regulated club will have a tendency to prevent the same, and to increase, not only the pleasurer and happiness of the respective members, but, also, will conduce to their edification and instruction, do hereby incorporate ourselves into a society, by the name of the OLD COLONY CLUB. For the better regulation of which we do consent and agree to observe all such rules and laws, as shall from time to time be made by the club. Dated at our Hall, in Plymouth, the day and year above written."

Signed by:	Isaac Lothrop	John Thomas
	Pelham Winslow	Edward Winslow Jr.
	Thomas Lothrop	John Watson
	Elkanah Cushman	

* * *

At first glance at the above, it would appear that the Old Colony Club was merely an exclusive social club for bored young men of prominent families who did not favour mixing with "lesser sorts" at the local pubs. While initially this was indeed true, the club soon distinguished itself with a noble cause:

"December 18th - At a meeting of the club, voted, that Friday next be kept by this club in commemoration of the landing of our worthy ancestors in this place; that the club dine together at Mr. Howland's, and that a number of gentlemen be invited to spend the evening with us at the Old Colony Hall."

And thus originated the custom and tradition of celebrating the landing of the Pilgrims, a tradition which continues on this, the Old Colony Club's, 225th anniversary.

CLUB MEMBERS

The founding members belonged to the cream of society. First President, Isaac Lothrop, was a prosperous merchant and descended from Rev. John Lothrop. First Secretary was his brother Thomas Lothrop. Elkanah Cushman was descended from Elder Thomas Cushman and Pilgrim Isaac Allerton. John Thomas was the great-grandson of former Assistant Governor William Thomas. Edward Winslow was the son of wealthy landowner and lawyer, Edward Winslow and a descendant of Pilgrim Edward Winslow. Pelham Winslow was also a Winslow descendant and the son of Maj. John Winslow (the British Army officer responsible for the forced evacuation of the Acadians in Nova Scotia a decade before). John Watson was a Winslow in-law.

Five gentlemen were later invited to join. Cornelius White was the brother-in-law of Pelham Winslow. James Warren was a cousin to the Winslows and descended from Pilgrim Richard Warren. Thomas Mayhew was the great-grandson of the missionary to the Indians around Martha's Vineyard. Oakes Angier was descended from Rev. Uriah Oakes, President of Harvard, and from Plymouth's sixth Governor, Thomas Hinckley. Alexander Scammell was the grammar school teacher in Plymouth.

FIRST CELEBRATION, 22 DEC. 1769

The day long affair began with the firing of a cannon followed by the raising of "an elegant silk flag" with the inscription "Old Colony 1620". Members met at the Hall at 11:00 a.m. and proceeded to the house of Thomas Southworth Howland, innkeeper.

At 2:30 they sat down to a banquet of baked Indian whortleberry pudding, sauquetach, clams, oysters, cod, sea fowl, frost fish, eels, venison, cheese, apple pie and cranberry tarts. Although this nine course dinner would certainly have seemed extravagant to the Pilgrims, great pains were taken to ensure that the meal was "dressed in the plaines manner, all appearances of luxury and extravagance being avoided, in imitation of our ancestors, whose memory we shall ever respect". At 4:00 p.m. the club was led by steward, Elkanah Cushman, in a procession first paying their respects to the Rock and on to the Hall on Main St.

"Upon the appearance of the procession in front of the Hall, a number of descendants from the first settlers in the Old Colony drew up in a regular file and discharged a volley of small arms, succeeded by three cheers, which were returned by the club, and the gentlemen generously treated."

Children from the nearby private school kept by Peleg Wadsworth then came out into the street and showed their respect for the memory of their ancestors by the singing of "a song very applicable to the day". At sunset the cannon was again fired.





The celebration continued with an invitation to the following gentlemen to attend the club that evening:

Col. George Watson	Capt. Thomas Davis
Col. James Warren	Dr. Nathaniel Lothrop
James Hovey, Esq.	Mr. John Russell
Thomas Mayhew, Esq.	Mr. Edward Clarke
William Watson, Esq.	Mr. Alexander Scammell
Capt. Gideon White	Mr. Peleg Wadsworth
Capt. Elkanah Watson	Mr. Thomas S. Howland

After several hours of discussion and toasts to their Pilgrim ancestors, (e.g. "May every enemy to civil or religious liberty meet the same or worse fate than Archbishop Laud") the evening ended with three cheers & the final firing of cannon

Whatever its initial self-serving motives, the Old Colony Club has the distinction of being the first organized group to annually commemorate the landing of our Pilgrim ancestors, an event that had all but been forgotten for almost 150 years. Unfortunately, the political circumstances of the day dictated that the club was forced to dissolve in 1773, only four years after its formation.

LOYALISTS VS PATRIOTS

The Old Colony Club was almost doomed from the start, being formed during a very precarious time in the history of the colonies. Relations with Great Britain had been growing steadily worse since the end of the Seven Year's War in 1763, leaving the British treasury with a deficit of £136,000,000. Although Britain had levied restrictions & taxes on the colonies in the past, they had been rather lax in procuring co-operation. Now that funds were desperately needed, Britain tightened up its control, imposed new taxes and re-enforced the old. The colonies were saddled with taxes every way they turned - Stamp Act, Navigation Act, Tea Act, Molasses & Sugar Act and later, the crushing Boston Port Act and Fishing Act.

Loyalties were divided throughout the colonies and Plymouth was no exception. Some remained loyal to the King and Mother England while others refused to submit to tyranny & oppression. Friendships as well as families fell victim to the troubles brewing; within the Club, the two sides were clear cut - the Winslows against the Warrens. One can well imagine the heated discussions that took place within its walls as boyhood friends, relatives and neighbours suddenly found themselves on opposite sides. Aware of the growing malcontent among themselves, a somewhat naive resolution was passed, "to hold weekly meetings for the mutual advantage of each other, to enjoy the refined pleasure of social and unrestrained intercourse, unalloyed with the disputes and contentions of parties".

1773, THE DEMISE OF THE OLD COLONY CLUB

The split within the Club climaxed at a meeting held 24 Nov. 1773. Three members of the Plymouth Committee of Correspondance & Communication attended - James Warren, John Torrey and Thomas Jackson. They informed the Club that the Committee was planning a Forefather's Day celebration and asked them to "join with and conform thereto".

Club members were outraged by the presumptuous interference of the Committee. To begin with, the Committees of Correspondance had been organized in various Massachusetts towns as a line of communication in the midst of the political unrest not to take over the planning of an annual social event. Secondly, and here lies the heart of the split, four members of the 13 member Committee, viz: James Warren, Thomas Mayhew, Thomas Lothrop & Isaac Lothrop, were members of the Club! In the capacity of Club members, these four had already helped organize and finalize plans for the upcoming Forefather's Day celebration and now, with the event less than four weeks away, they were informing the Club that their Committee would be handling the celebration that year!

As the year 1773 came to an end, the Old Colony Club celebrated it's last Forefather's Day.

(Part 2 will discuss the Old Colony Club members and what became of them during and after the Revolutionary War.)

Sources: History of the Town of Plymouth by James Thacher, MD (1835, repr.1972)
Saints & Strangers by George F. Willison (1945, repr.1983)

- by Susan E. Roser

