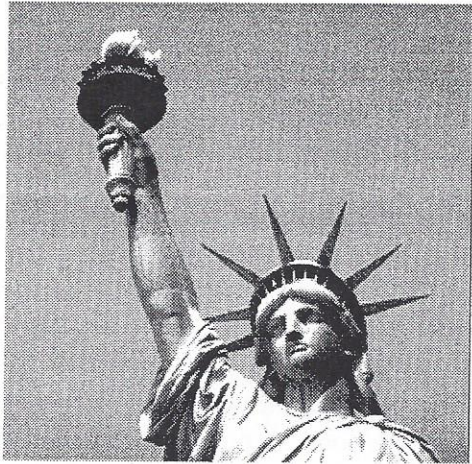


# Canadian Pilgrim

Newsletter of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants

D. T. Lahey, Editor



“A man’s right to swing his arm ends two inches from the tip of my nose.”

— Abraham Lincoln

## September 11, 2001

“We live in troubled times.”

We call each other “cousins” half in jest when we meet at Mayflower gatherings, the distant kinship nearly lost in a shadowy chain of generations. When the enemy is unseen and shows no mercy, when he makes no distinction between the armed soldier and the unarmed civilian, when he sees no difference between the guilty and the innocent, cares not for man, or woman, or child — these are troubled times indeed. Our hearts are with our American cousins as they head into an uncertain future.

## A Mayflower Odyssey

**This past summer** Canadian Society member Vern Saunders of Penticton, British Columbia, had the trip of a lifetime, when son Ted (one of our newest members) of New Brunswick invited Vern to visit Plymouth, Massachusetts.

From right to left, Vern Saunders, his son Ted and wife Renee. Ted and Renee’s son Jacob stands in front. They are standing beside the portico covering Plymouth rock.

Vern and Ted’s story is on page five. It’s a good one!







*the  
editor's  
world*

D T Lahey  
Editor

We are pleased to have in this issue a photo essay on the visit to Plymouth taken this past summer by Vern Saunders of Penticton B.C. and his son Ted and his wife Renee, and their son Jacob. For those who have not yet seen the pilgrim sights of Plymouth, or for those who have not been there for a while, this is a great way to acquaint or re-acquaint yourselves with the area. We thank Vern and Ted for taking the time to write their experiences for us.

My own pilgrim success story of this year is proving up my supplemental to William White. This had been a saga going back many years, during which I could not find adequate proof of my descent through my great-great-grandparents, Stephen and Abigail Rider.

The solution to my puzzle came when I located a query that mentioned the family Bible of Abigail Rider. It took some searching to locate this researcher, but well worth it when I did, as he not only had the Bible, but a picture of my 3-great-grandparents as well!

The General Society has accepted the Bible entries, and my long-sought quest is fulfilled.



## The Governor's Column

Paul Hill

**T**he Governor General of the International Society has been musing (March 2001 Quarterly) about the Society becoming International; or more precisely becoming 'more International.' The question might be asked — why? Does the

bulk of the (US) membership want to give up what some say is a cozy inward looking 'patriotic society?' Is there any advantage to doing this? It is now clear that this initiative by the Governor General will end up with little or no action being taken.

In 1990 the Canadian Society proposed minor amendments to the constitution to make it inclusive of Canadian members. There was a request made for us to withdraw these with the understanding more comprehensive changes were being considered. We did, but no action was taken. The issue was raised again in 1996 and following this there was a 'white paper' of possible changes distributed. Still no action was taken. We attempted to re-introduce the original amendments but were stymied by some new rules. The frustration continues.

Perhaps the thing that must change if the society is to become truly International is one of attitude. The certificate, which we all received, says quite a bit. The words American Freedom are pejorative and more than that do not represent fact. Such wording is of course not acceptable on the certificate nor in the psyche of members of an International Society.

Your board considered possible changes to the General Society Constitution, to at least remove the offending language. A change in the naming of the individual societies so that we are not named a 'State Society,' using language suggested by the Governor General, was considered and passed by the Canadian Board. Unfortunately, this language was (apparently) not enunciated by the Governor General at the recent General Board of Assistants meeting in Maine. Of greater consequence, the motion of the Canadian Board was not supported by our representatives at the meeting. We are therefore left with no status when the motion(s) for change are brought before the General Congress next year.

Are you, the Members, happy with this state of affairs? Your Governor is not amused. — *Paul Hill*

## Generous bequest

**The late Marshall Dean**, who for many years was our Deputy Governor, Assistant General and Deputy Governor General for Canada to the General Society, has left the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants a bequest of \$12,000. Of this \$10,000 is for the purchase of Mayflower-related books for our Mayflower Library at the North York Public Library in Toronto, and \$2,000 for the general use of our Society. Our Librarian, Joyce Cutler, outlines on our Business Page what purchases have been made to date. Marshall's obituary appeared in the Fall 2000 issue of this Newsletter.

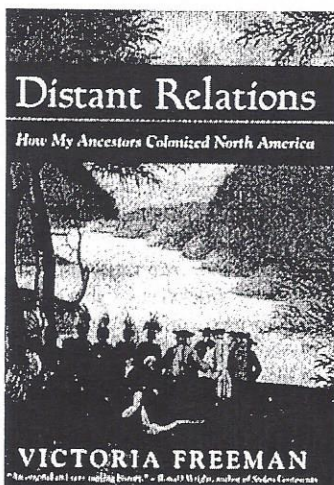




### Our guest speaker

Victoria Freeman was born in Ottawa and attended the University of Toronto. Her working life has included supervising a model-rocket launch site, practising sheep midwifery, teaching English in Swaziland, Africa, co-ordinating a major women's literary conference, raising funds for the world's first circumpolar English/Inuktitut literary magazine, and writing, editing, and mothering. She lives in Toronto.

Victoria has recently published her family history, *Distant Relations, How my ancestors colonized North America*, from which she will extract her talk with us.



## Annual Meeting and Compact Dinner



10 November 2001



**Location:** Monte Carlo Inn, 374 S. Service Rd., Oakville, Ont., 905-849-9500

**Time:** 6:00 P.M. — hotel bar and social hour;

7:00 P.M. — buffet supper

**Cost:** \$35.

**Menu:** 5 Salads, assorted cold cuts, relish tray, cheese & fruit tray; 1 Hot dish (meat), potatoes (parisienne, gourmet mashed, mini red or white); assorted cakes & pastry; dinner rolls, coffee & tea

**Guest Speaker:** Victoria Freeman

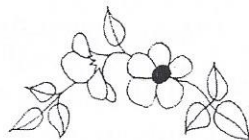
**Topic:** "Distant Relations; How my ancestors colonized North America." Freeman follows her ancestors from the Bay Colony of the 1630s to Ontario in the 1920s, "exploring the process of colonization in such a personal way that the reader will be encouraged to reflect on his or her own relationship to this history."

**How to get there:** From QEW west – take Trafalgar Rd. South, turn right on exit ramp, then turn left immediately ahead on S. Service Rd. - hotel is up around the corner.

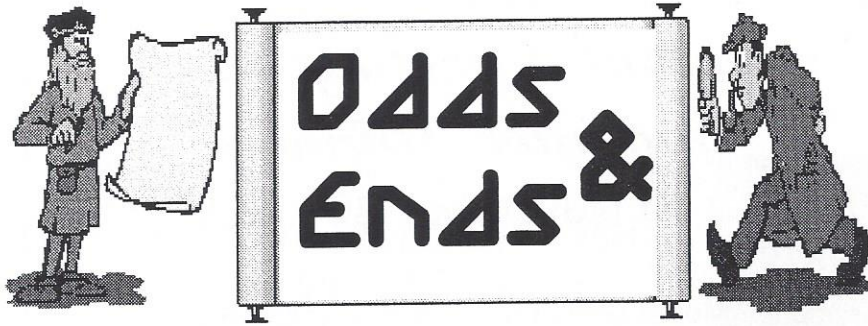
From QEW east – take Trafalgar Rd. South, turn left over the overpass, turn left at S. Service Rd. The hotel is visible, south of the highway, east of Trafalgar Rd.

**Please note:** This is a buffet dinner and we need reservations. It is imperative that we know how many to plan for. Please let Allyn know if you are coming by **November 1st**. Please send your money and reservation to **Allyn Dean, 86 Constance St, Toronto, Ont, M6R 1S6**.

Friends and family are more than welcome. We look forward to seeing you all on the 10th of November.







**Brae New World** A new biography of Mary Shelley, the author of the horror classic *Frankenstein*, claims that her inspiration was not just from a stormy night on Lake Geneva, but two years she spent in Dundee. She records that the shores of the River Tay at Dundee was “the pleasant region where unheeded I could commune with creatures of my fancy.” (*Hamilton Spectator*, 11 Nov 2000, D9)

**The good ship USA** A southern U.S. lawmaker commented, “Even though some of our ancestors came here on the Mayflower and some came on slave ships, we are all on the same boat now,” *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

**Pilgrim wisdom** U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer had this to say during a hearing on a controversial European Union policy: “I enjoy these discussions because they always reinforce what I believe was the good judgment of my ancestors to leave the continent.”

**Saved** The city council of Leiden, Holland, is reconsidering announced plans to demolish a ruin of a 14th-century church in which the Pilgrims worshiped and in which “records show ancestors of President Bush were married,” Associated Press said.

**It takes all kinds** Among the homeless people quoted in a San Jose Mercury News story about an illegal riverside encampment was “Donald ‘Dirt Clod’ Alden, a former drug addict who says he’s a 13th-generation descendant of Mayflower Pilgrim John Alden.”

**Mayflower blossoms take root** When volume four of the multivolume *Dictionary of American Regional English* is published in 2002 or 2003, the Associated Press said, among the regional expressions it will define is “seed folks,” a Maine term for ancestors and old-timers.

**Don’t diss Diss** Mr. Manning, a genealogist in Diss, Norfolk, England, learning that a branch of Barclays Bank was closing, checked to see if it had any securities that might have belonged to his family. To his amazement, the bank said it had a heavy box in storage, which had been deposited in 1889. Once the bank was satisfied with his documentation of descent, the box was delivered to Mr. Manning. Upon opening it, he found many pieces of family silver. The silver collection is thought to have been started in 1688. A number of items from the hoard went on sale at Tattersalls in Newmarket, Suffolk, where collectors purchased them. The few items sold for a grand total of more than £8,000. An 18th century Queen Anne coffee urn fetched £4,000, and a set of George IV candlesticks with silver plated candelabra branches sold for £3,500. The Manning family is indeed fortunate to have recovered this family treasure, thanks to one family member’s genealogical efforts.

## Governor Bradford Studies Hebrew

“Though I am grown aged, yet I have had a longing desire, to see with mine own eyes, something of that most ancient language, and holy tongue, in which the law and oracles of God were write, and in which god, and angels, spake to the holy patriarchs of old from the creation. And though I cannot attaine to much herein, yet I am refreshed to have seen some glimpse, hereof (as Moyses saw the land of canan afaer of.) my aime and desire is, to see how the wordes and phrases lye in the holy texte; and to discerne somewhat of the same, for my contente.” *Of Plimoth Plantation* p. 110

**Editor’s note:** When Governor Bradford wrote the above words, he configured them in the shape of a whirlwind, as below.

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for my contente.”

3

**Seeds from weeds** “Evolved from the pretty wildflower Queen Anne’s lace, the carrot has come a long way since our ancestors grubbed in meadows for the plant’s slim, white root.” (*Paper Roots* 79)

**The truth can hurt** When a U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice was told that a forebear was executed for embezzlement, he commented, “I have found out more than I wanted to about my Swedish ancestors.” (*Paper Roots* 79)





## The Business Page

### *Moving?*

With each issue of the *Canadian Pilgrim* several are returned with the notation "Moved — left no address." If you are moving, please let the Society know, so we can ensure delivery to you.

### *Dues Notice!*

**Haven't paid yet?** Please remember that 2002 membership dues of \$40 are due **Nov 30, 2001**. Please send payment to:

**Allyn Dean, Treasurer**  
86 Constance St  
Toronto ON M6R 1S6

Our society depends on your dues and donations. *Why not pay for several years in advance?*

### *Canadian Certificates*

CANADIAN MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES are still available at a cost of \$5.00. Please contact the Canadian Historian Susan Roser if interested.

### *Donations*

We are most grateful to members who choose to donate to our Society.

Our thanks to former Canadian Governor **Keith Bain** for his donation.

### *The Web*

Our website has undergone a major overhaul by our webmaster Historian Susan Roser. The address is



[www.rootsweb.com/~canms/canada.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~canms/canada.html).

If you are on the web, please check regularly with our site for news of meetings, and other information of interest to our members.

### *Library Report—Fall 2001*

Joyce Cutler

**Our Canadian Mayflower Society** has received a generous bequest from the late Marshall Dean to be used for our library.

We have already received ten thousand dollars and have started to purchase books and microfiches. By this fall we hope to have acquired the entire microfiche collection of *Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850*, a total of 287 microfiches. The surnames are arranged alphabetically for each town and cover the births, marriages and deaths for 194 towns. These vital records are from the old printed books and contain facts gathered from town, church, cemetery, court and family records.

We have also bought the entire *Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records*. This is a work in progress and there are currently 43 published volumes, starting with Andover and ending with Stonington. These two sets of records will be invaluable to anyone doing New England research and as far as I know, have not been available locally up to now.

In the near future we would like to set up some type of limited email research service for out of town members who would like to obtain information from these vital records. We hope to have more information about this in our next newsletter.

Following is a list of the new

books we have already purchased:

*Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 3 volumes, by Charles W. Manwaring  
*Vol. 1, Hartford District, 1635-1700*

*Vol. 2, Hartford District, 1700-1729*

*Vol. 3, Hartford District, 1729-1750*

*Cemetery Inscriptions of the Town of Barnstable Mass. And Its Villages, 1600-1900*, by Paul J. Bunnell

*History of Chatham Mass.*, 1971 Edition, by William C. Smith

*Old Cemeteries of Southeastern Massachusetts* (in the late 1880's), by Charles M. Thatcher  
*Records of Plymouth Colony*, by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, ed.

### *Nominating Committee*

The nominating committee consisting of Lynne Webb, Dale Lahey and Joyce Cutler, respectively submit the following nominations:

HISTORIAN - **Susan Roser**  
TREASURER - **L. Allyn Dean**  
CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY - **Myrna Geldart**  
MEMBER-AT-LARGE - **Mary Nichols**

### *Urgent!!*

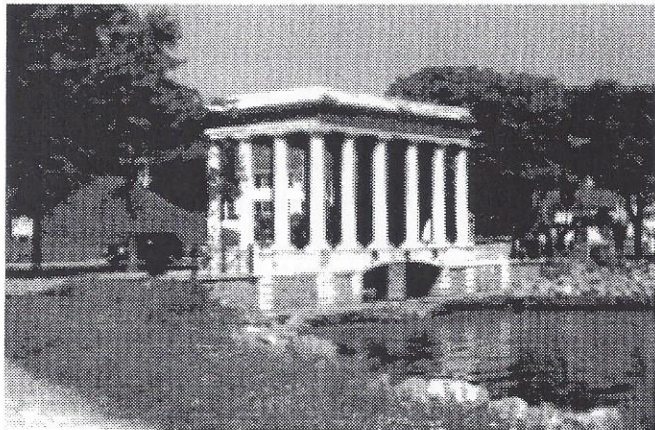
**Your Canadian Society** is in need of volunteers to serve on the Board of Assistants. This is vital work to the survival of your Society, but it is not a burden. We hold about three meetings a year besides the Spring and Fall meetings. What you get in return for your service is a sense of accomplishment and convivial fellowship. If interested, please contact our Historian, Susan Roser.



## Impressions of our first trip to Plymouth

Vern and Ted Saunders.

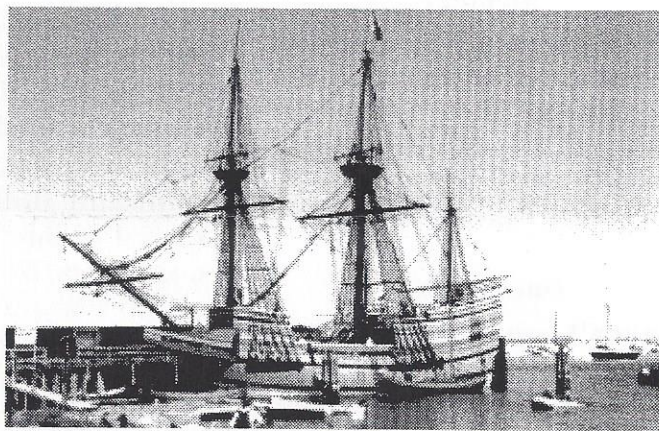
**This was to be a journey 400 years back in time.** We left New Brunswick for Plymouth, Mass. and arrived two days later. The next morning we set out to see the sights, the first stop being the fabled Plymouth Rock — where it all began. The “Rock” itself is quite an awesome spectacle when you consider the history behind it. Standing there one can picture the *Mayflower* anchored off shore, while the first of the passengers made their way to shore in their small landing-craft (it is said that John Alden was the first person to actually set foot on the shore). Today the “Rock” sits inside a Portico, partially covered in sand, as many people were chipping pieces off and taking them as souvenirs of the



“birthplace of America.” Much smaller than it was 400 years ago, the “Rock” has not had an easy existence. While in transport to its current location it broke into two pieces and had to be cemented back together. Additionally, there are pieces of the original in the Smithsonian Institute and even in the Museum in Plymouth that can actually be touched by the museum patrons.

From the “Rock” we went over to see a replica of the *Mayflower* that is permanently moored some 500 meters down the beach from the Plymouth Rock historical sight. It is a very imposing sight to see it sitting there in the water, its masts stretching high into the skyline. While taking a tour of the ship one cannot help but marvel at the thought of one hundred plus individuals traveling across the North Atlantic in such a vessel. While not a small boat, it is by no means a large ship by today’s stand-

ards and would have been tossed around like a cork in harsh North Atlantic storms. Inside the ship one can feel a genuine appreciation for the conditions under which the Pilgrims traveled. With their supplies loaded — including many barrels of water and beer — there was not a lot of room for movement about. These people must have been a special breed to withstand the rigors of such a voyage. While on board you can interact with actors playing the parts



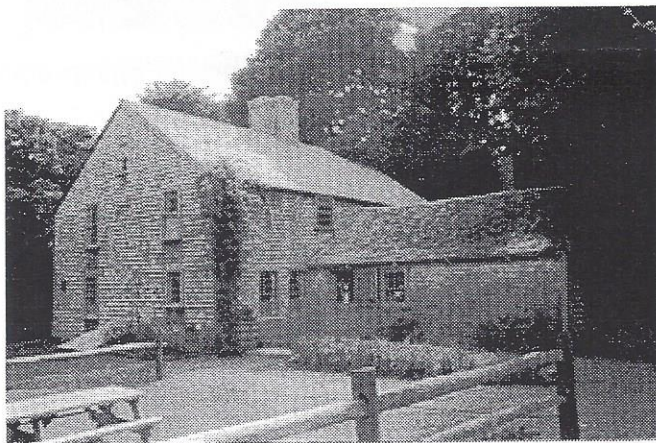
of the Pilgrims and ask them whatever questions you might have. They are very knowledgeable and tell the amazing stories of the voyage, almost as if they had been there.

Among the many historical attractions in Plymouth are numerous houses that have been preserved and maintained complete with period furniture and artifacts. It is truly amazing to see some of the structures and furniture that were built by the early settlers, considering they had little in the way of tools in the early days. We toured the Winslow house as well as the headquarters of the *Mayflower* Society, both of which are kept in immaculate condition. Of particular note is the library located in the rear of the main house housing the Society headquarters. There is a considerable collection of books and other documents relevant to genealogical research as well as a staff who can assist you with your research.

The highlight of our tour took place when we traveled up to Duxbury to see the Alden House. John Alden and Priscilla were our ancestors so we spent a good deal of time in Duxbury. In fact we did not get it all finished in one visit, so we returned a couple of days later. The official archivist for the Alden House, and a young woman we met there who turned out to be a cousin of ours, provided us with a detailed tour of the house leaving out noth-



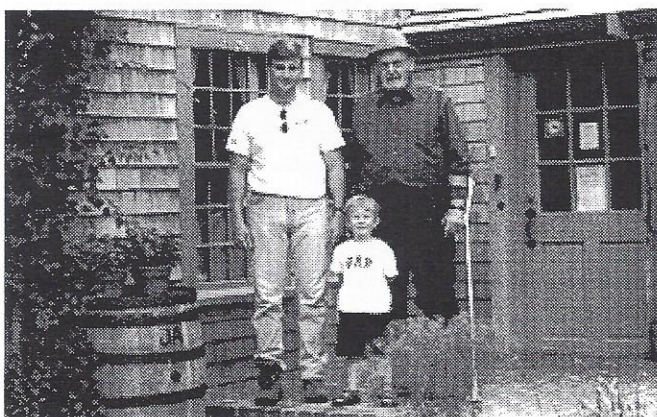
ing. Needless-to-say we had numerous questions to ask. The house itself was built in 1653 and has withstood the elements since that time. Of particular interest is that the house has never been lived in by anyone other than an Alden descendant up until the time it was purchased by the Society of Alden Descendants some forty years ago. Overall it is safe to say that the blood pressure went up a notch and the heart beat a little faster while standing in the house our ancestors lived in nearly 400 years ago. It is not hard, with a little imagination, to picture the Pilgrims going about their daily routines. To complete the trip to Duxbury, we went to view the gravesite of John and Priscilla. Although



the grave marker does not mark the actual burial plot, as it has been lost over the years, it is impressive none the less.

It was a wonderful experience to visit a place so connected to our ancestral history and so breathtakingly scenic that we would not hesitate to return in a heartbeat.

*Below: Vern, Ted, and Jacob stand in the doorway of the Alden house in Duxbury. The cask marked JA was, we can imagine, made by cooper John Alden.*



## The B.C. Colony



### The BC Colony

The BC Colony held its Spring meeting on 22 April in Vancouver, BC. There were 20 in attendance. Our speaker was member Bob White who spoke on writing of things historical and genealogical. He showed examples of things he has written and is in the process of writing. Very informative, and well received. *Abbie Thompson, Regent of BC Colony.*

*Front, on floor — Joan Fishleigh*

*1st Row- l to r — Frank Fishleigh, Joan Stace-Smith (hostess), Melanie Hamilton, Norma McGuire, George Hamilton*

*Standing—Gwen Philpott, Abbie Thompson, George Baldwin, Bobbie Baldwin, Ramon McGuire, Pat Walker, Bill Brown,*

*Four in very back row— Bob White, Dale Philpott, Bob Prince, and Arlene Brown*

### **B.C. Pilgrim**

**Bill Brown, past BC Regent,** has published Volume 3, number 2, of the *B.C. Pilgrim*. Like wine, this fine newsletter improves with age. In this issue, Bill gives news of Colony meetings, health of members, and congratulations to new members, and more. The big news is that the BC Colony will host Governor General Eugene A. Fortine and his wife Pat. Gene and Pat will be visiting with Regent Abbie Thompson and husband Ken in beautiful Sooke, before attending the meeting at the residence of Joan and Dick Stace-Smith on October 21 in Vancouver. This will be a double celebration for Joan and Dick, who are celebrating 50 years of marriage this year. Our Congratulations to them!

Please take a few minutes now to send in your 2002 dues

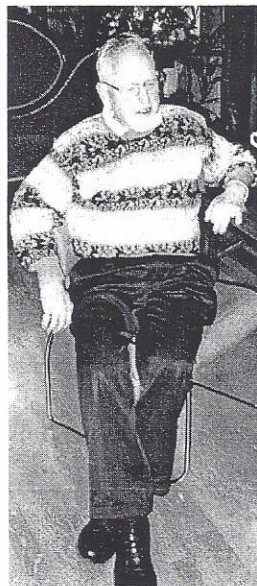


# The Spring Tea — meet our members

Our Spring Tea this year was held at McKenzie House, the headquarters of the Ontario Historical Society.



Sisters Sylvia Green-Guenette and Elizabeth Larabee are two of our newest members.



**Above left:** Ruth and George Crawford, and Nancy Darlow share a happy moment.

**Left:** Our treasurer Allyn Dean takes his ease.

**Below:** Myrna Geldart, and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Moorby. Albert is a Mayflower applicant. We look forward to his successful admission!



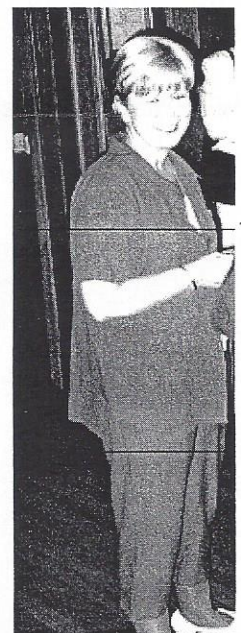
**Above:** Bob and Marjorie White from Bobcaygeon.

**Right:** Our historian and webmaster Susan Roser from Milton.

**Below:** Gary Bagley and Lynn Webb from Ottawa..



**Below:** Betty Abraham and Peggy Lahey have a quiet chat. Both are from Guelph.





## The spring tea

The **Semiannual meeting and Spring Tea** was held at the John McKenzie house on 21 April 21, 2001 with 19 in attendance.

The Meeting was opened at 1:30 by Deputy Governor Susan Roser who was filling in for Governor Paul Hill who was unable to attend. Nominating committee: Lynne Webb has agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee joining Dale Lahey and Joyce Cutler.

**Board Openings:** Susan Roser invited members to consider joining the Board of Assistants. March Quarterly. Members may have noticed the article on page 7 of the March issue of *The Mayflower Quarterly*. (The case for being international) The Mayflower Society is considering ways of making the General Society more of an International organization. Governor Paul Hill has worked on and recommended some changes the Canadian Society would like to see made in The General Society Constitution. The Board of Assistants has forwarded these suggestions to Plymouth.

We have also been informed that the General Society is working on re-designing the membership certificates. They have requested examples of State society certificates for possible ideas; we have sent a copy of ours.

The Board of Assistants Meeting for the General Society will be held in September in Portland, Maine. Susan Roser and Joyce Cutler representing the Canadian Society as Deputy Governor General and Assistant General are planning to attend this meeting.

For those who haven't read their March Quarterly yet, there is an article written by Susan Roser about our 20th Anniversary in it.

Note the web address of our Society's site was incorrectly given in the Newsletter. E-mail Susan Roser to obtain the correct one.

Mark your calendar now! Our Annual meeting and Compact dinner will be held 10 Nov. 2001 at 6:00 p.m. in Oakville at the Monte Carlo Hotel (Trafalgar Rd. cut off). It will be a Buffet.

We welcome Elizabeth Larrabee as a new member in our Society. Her membership was approved by the Historian General April 6 2001.

At the close of the business meeting, a video, *Haunted Lighthouses of New England* was shown. Refreshments followed. *Deborah Clarke*

## Newcomers

We welcome the following new members to the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants.

#342, **Elizabeth M. Larrabee**, #4-116 Woodlawn Rd., Guelph, Ont. N1E 1B7 (Bradford)

#343, **Sylvia G. Green-Guenette**, 107 Irvine Ave., Westmount, Que H3Z 2K3 (Bradford)

#344, **Norma G. McGuire**, 19626 48A Ave., Langley, B.C. V3A 3N7 (Cooke)

#345, **Gail E. Moser**, Box 302 RR#4, Huntsville, Ont. P1H 2J6 (Billington)

#346, **Lee Tost**, 1334 Reed Pl., Regina, SK S4X 3G6 (Warren)

#347, **Edward A. Saunders**, 6 Dakota Dr., Oromocto, N.B. E2V 1L4 (Alden)

#348, **Marilyn B. Crowley**, 8-2 Glen Lawrence Cres., Kingston, Ont. K7L 4V1 (Cooke)

#349, **F. Abigail Fulton**, 356 Newport Ave., Victoria, B.C. V8S 5C5 (Bradford)

**Family Connections:** Elizabeth and Sylvia are sisters; Gail is the sister of our librarian, Joyce Cutler; Edward is the son of member Vern Saunders.

### *Supplemental*

**Dale Lahey** #197 — William White

### *A new view of the Pilgrims*

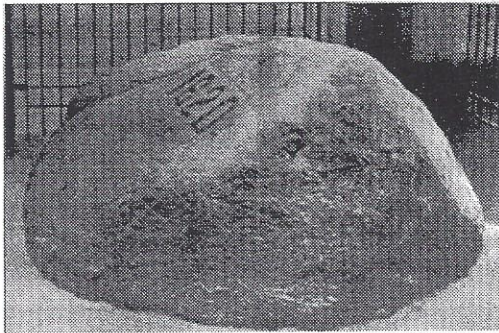
**Traditional accounts of the English** explorations and colonizations are remarkably benign, emphasizing the ideas that the founders of the colonies planted "seeds of democracy" in the New World. At the same time that the English were grappling with the challenges posed by the Americas, they also were struggling with the crises of religious divisions and sectarian rivalry. It therefore seemed a useful expedient to permit members of difficult religious minorities — the most famous examples are the Pilgrims in 1620 and the Puritans in 1630 — to leave England for America. The mother country would be safely insulated from these dissenting religious colonies by distance and the hardship of travel; mother country and colonies could thus leave one another alone. *From an internet essay*



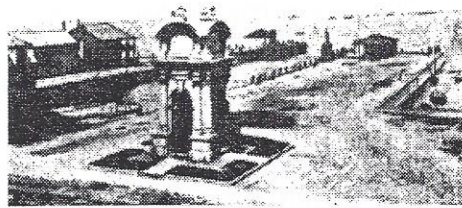
## A Rock — rite and reality

### *Some reflections*

**POOR PLYMOUTH ROCK.** The hallowed granite boulder hasn't been treated kindly, even by those who have sought to honor it. Most of the abuse occurred while the rock was being prepared for transport to exhibition places. In 1774 the rock split in two while pegs were being hammered into its grain lines to prepare it for lifting. In 1834, the upper piece broke in half when it was dropped from a cart while being moved to a site in Plymouth. The boulder — roughly seven feet long, five feet wide, four feet above water, and two feet submerged at high tides — was reunited and returned to its original resting place in 1921 [when it] was placed under a granite portico." (*Thanks to Mayflower Quarterly, February 1992, p. 334, slightly abridged.*)

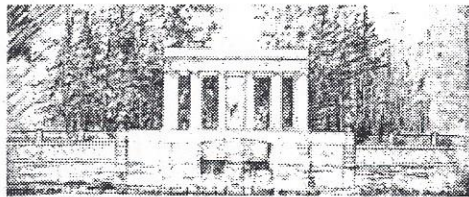


WERE IT NOT FOR THE MEMORY of one old man, Plymouth Rock and its symbolism would be a non-existent element of our Pilgrim background. In 1741, at age ninety-five, Elder Thomas Faunce told the people of Plymouth how he had talked to John Howland and his wife, John Alden, George Soule, Francis Cooke, and Mary (Allerton) Cushman; all of these, he said, told him that they had stepped ashore upon that rock, and that John Winslow's wife, Mary (Chilton), had come there on her seventy-fifth birthday and stepped on the rock, saying she was the first woman to have stepped on to it. (*Thanks to the Arizona Mayflower Log, March 1998*)



WITH THE APPROACH OF 1920 the town fathers turned their attention to a matter that had been of serious concern to them for some time. Plymouth Rock, resting under its grand Italian stone canopy, was a long way from the water's edge. Too many visitors were apt to smile and be in disbelief when shown the rock and told the story of the landing. Determined to put a stop to this and fearing the tourist trade, the old Italianate canopy was torn down. Bulldozers cleared away the last remnants of old buildings and wharves. Steam shovels returned the beach to its probable 1620 configuration and the stone was placed at the waterside location. (*Thanks to Mayflower Quarterly, August 1987, pp. 170-1, slightly abridged*)

OF ALL THE FEATURES on the beach [at Plymouth] in 1620, only the Rock endures, at once a disillusionment and something of a mystery, a humble and diminished thing, yet stubbornly and solidly final. Abused, scorned, reviled, scarred by the glacier that carried it there and bearing the faint traces of graffiti imperfectly removed, even on a cold winter's day the Rock maintains its dignity. Stones, however, save those with fossils, contain no hint of life, no meaning except what we subjectively endow them with, and the Rock at Plymouth is no more nor less than what the beholder wants it to be. (*Thanks to Robert C Thompson, Arizona Mayflower Log, March 1999.*)



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