

Canadian Pilgrim



Newsletter of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants

Robert W. White, Editor

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING & SPRING LUNCHEON

Date: May 8th, 2004
Place: Dundurn Castle,
610 York Blvd.
Hamilton, Ont.

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Price: \$26.00 (includes lunch & tour)

We look forward to joining our members for lunch at the Coach House restaurant, immediately next to the parking lot on the site of Dundurn Castle. We will have a short business meeting before lunch, which will consist of two choices of entrees. Following our luncheon will be a guided tour of Dundurn Castle.

Sir Allan Napier MacNab (1798-1862) purchased the property in 1832 for L2,000 and soon began construction. It took three years to complete and cost about \$175,000.00. The mansion had 72 rooms and all the latest modern conveniences - running water and gas lighting. MacNab lived here with his wife Mary and daughters Ann, Sophia and Mary, where lavish parties and political meetings were held, including a visit by the Prince of Wales in 1860. When MacNab died in 1862, the property was sold to pay his debts. To learn more about Dundurn Castle, visit

www.hpl.hamilton.on.ca/Collections/landmark/Dundurn.shtml

Directions: From Toronto take QEW to 403; exit on York Blvd., Dundurn is ahead before the first set of lights. From Hamilton take 403; exit on Main St. E.; turn left at first set of lights and left at next set. (Dundurn ends and becomes York Blvd.) (To confirm directions call 905-546-2872)

Please send your reservation and remittance of \$26.00 per person to Joyce Cutler, Governor, 448 Third Line, Oakville, Ont. L6L 4A5

NO LATER THAN APRIL 30TH.

25th Anniversary: Plymouth 2005

Plans are underway for the celebration of the Canadian Society's 25th anniversary in Plymouth, Mass., Sept. 14th - 16th, 2005. We are extremely excited to have this chance for our members across Canada to join together in the land of our ancestors and celebrate this milestone in our society's history. What a great opportunity to get to know one another! And what better place to do it!

Our events have been planned around the General Congress of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, the business meetings of which will be held Sept. 12th-13th, 2005. The Congress usually begins on Sunday (Sept. 11th) with a reception for delegates and registered guests and ends on Tuesday evening (Sept. 13th) with a banquet. Plymouth will be an exciting place to be as delegates from each state society, numbering over 300, arrive for the Congress.

Proposed Agenda:

Wednesday, Sept. 14th

8:30 a.m. Wreath laying ceremony at the Sarcophagus on Cole's Hill to honour our ancestors.

We are leaving this day free for shopping, research at the library, or for members who register as guests at the Congress and wish to join the General Society's day tour (to be announced).

7:00 p.m. Reception and cocktail party at the Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbour

Thursday, Sept. 15th

8:30 a.m. (Possible special commemoration to be announced)

9:30 a.m. Tour of Plimoth Plantation. Members will arrange own transportation and meet at the Plantation where they will enjoy a self-guided tour.

12:30 p.m. Barbecue buffet luncheon at Plimoth Plantation

Free afternoon and dinner.

8:00 p.m. Evening group lantern tour of Plymouth. Join other Canadian Society members to hear

fascinating stories of Plymouth's early inhabitants, while carrying a lantern to guide your way.

Friday, Sept. 16th

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. – All day tour & lunch. Join us on a "Pilgrim Path" tour up beautiful Cape Cod as we stop at places where the Pilgrims first tread – including Provincetown!

7:00 p.m. Closing Banquet at the Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbour. Guest Speaker: Governor William Bradford

We have made arrangements with the Radisson Hotel for a price of \$92-102 per night – an excellent rate! We have only a block of 25 rooms put aside and 17 are already gone. It is imperative that you book your room NOW so that the hotel can put aside additional rooms if we need them (if we wait until next year, they cannot guarantee the price).

We have already made deposits and arrangements for our events, so we must know how many to plan for. Please let Susan Roser know as soon as possible if you are interested in attending and also for instructions as to how to book the special room rate at the Radisson. Queries by email have resulted in 55 interested society members – from British Columbia to Nova Scotia, 35 of whom have already booked their hotel room! **Please join us and help us to make this a most memorable experience!**

Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants Minutes of the 23rd Annual Meeting and Compact Dinner

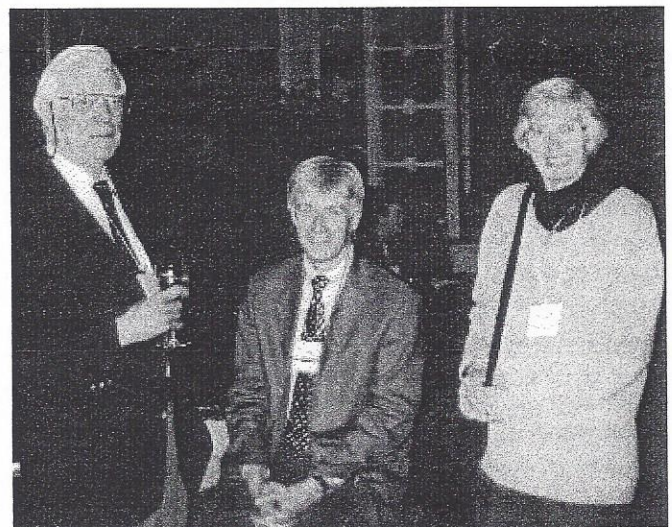
The Annual Meeting and Compact Dinner was held 15 November 2002 at the Toronto Cricket, Curling and Skating Club

Governor Susan Roser opened the meeting with a warm greeting to the 48 members and friends attending. She then thanked Keith Bain, a former Governor and Captain of our Society, for once again making it possible for us to hold our meeting at the Toronto Cricket Curling and Skating club. Susan went on to say she was pleased to see Mel Donald and his wife Lola with us tonight. For the past several years Mel and Lola have been spending their winters down south and have therefore, not been able to attend our annual meetings. Mel has served our society, in one capacity or another, since its formation in 1980. He has been Governor, Deputy Governor, Historian, and Treasurer. Mel is presently our Elder.

As it turns out, Mel is not the only Board member who has been here a long time. Susan said she has been doing a little homework, recently and she has discovered that Deborah Clarke has been our Recording Secretary

since 1984 (19 years). Luther Allyn Dean has been our treasurer since 1989 (that's 14 years) and she, herself, published her first Canadian Pilgrim newsletter back in 1982 – that was 21 years ago.

Governor's report: On Friday Oct. 31 Susan flew out to Calgary. On Nov. 1 she had the great honour to speak at the Annual Meeting of the Alberta Colony and meet approximately 40 of our western members. Susan said she was pleased to finally have the opportunity to put faces on people, whom up to now, she had only known through their correspondence with her while they were working on their documentation to join our society. Susan said she spent an incredible three days in Calgary being royally wined, dined and entertained by the Alberta Regent Bill Parsons and his wife, Lynda, who also



William and Rick Archbold, and Mary Nichols

opened their home to her for the duration of her stay. Bill, Lynda, and Jim and Ann Murphy, she said, made a special effort to show her all the sites. Susan spent a day in Calgary viewing its fascinating architecture and sculptures, statues and works of art and went to Banff and Lake Louise, as well, where she saw some of the most incredible scenery our country has to offer.

Society News: It is with great pleasure Susan said that she now announced the appointment of Robert White of North Vancouver as Editor of our newsletter, *Canadian Pilgrim*. A retired high school History teacher and Regent of our B.C. colony, Robert has had a lot of experience in this field. He is currently the editor of the Newsletter for the Naval Officer's Association of B.C. Robert retired from the Naval Reserve in 1990 with the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Susan moved for a motion of appreciation for Dale Lahey, our outgoing Editor, for his five years of outstanding service as editor of our newsletter. She said Dale has continually produced a high quality publication

that is without a doubt one of the best if not the best of all the newsletters of all the State Societies.

25th Anniversary Celebration: Susan announced that we have started to make preliminary plans to hold our 25th anniversary celebration in the land of our Pilgrim ancestors (Sept. 14 - 16th 2005) during the week of the General Congress in Plymouth. Susan has been in contact with the Radisson Hotel and Plimoth Plantation and is now waiting to hear from a couple of tour companies. Susan has put together a tentative preliminary agenda. As it stands now there will be three days of events: a reception and cocktail party to which we intend to invite such special guests



**Governors of the Canadian Society - Past and Present
Susan Roser, Mel Donald, Joyce Cutler, Keith Bain**

as the Historian General, Governor General etc., a meeting and a luncheon, a wreath laying ceremony, an evening lantern tour, a group tour of Plymouth and other Pilgrim related spots and a group tour of Plymouth plantation, followed by a barbecue lunch. Susan plans to end the three day festivities with a banquet and invite William Bradford to be our guest speaker. She asked any member who is interested in attending to let her know if he or she wants to be put on an e-mail list to receive updates of our plans as we go along. Although we will not require any firm commitments for at least another year, we do need to have a general idea of how many are interested in attending.

Spring Meeting: Susan has made arrangements to hold our Spring Meeting on Saturday May 8, 2004 at the Dundurn Castle in Hamilton.

The **Minutes of the Meeting of Nov. 10, 2002** were passed on a motion by Dale Lahey seconded by Marion Smith Tait.

The **Mayflower Compact** read by Dale Lahey

Ancestral Roll Call read by the Recording Secretary Deborah Clarke. Once again William Brewster's family led the list with thirteen representatives of his family present. In all 17 Mayflower families were represented.

Necrology read by Allyn Dean. Our society lost two members during the last year, Walter Saunders and Virginia Wallace.

Treasurer's Report by Allyn Dean: As of 12 November 2003 our latest member number was 399 which includes 66 life members, 201 regular members and 132 who are no longer members. Our membership now officially stands at 267. Of the Regular Members 8 have paid for 2005; 93 have paid for 2004; 90 have paid for 2003 and 10 have paid for 2002. Bank Accounts: 543-500579 - \$10,180.32; 543-7200005 \$US - \$649.07. GIC's: We have \$ 15,532 at 4.25% due 22 Nov. 2003 and \$14,000 at 3.05% due 11 Mar 2005. The library fund now stands at \$7667.00.

Historian's Report by Susan Roser. We have gained 18 new members so far this year. Susan hopes to add a couple more by the end of the year.

Library Report by Joyce Cutler. The following new books have been placed in our library: *Cape Cod Library of Local History and Genealogy* by Leonard H. Smith Jr. (Vol. 1 & 2); *Divided Hearts Massachusetts Loyalists 1768 -1790, a biographical Directory* by David E. Maas; *Notices from the New Hampshire Gazette 1765 -1800* by Otis G. Hamman.



Nancy Darlow and Evelyn Frain

The Loyalists of Quebec 1774 -1825 A Forgotten History, published under the Auspices of the UEL Montreal Branch, donated by member Margaret Smith Stead;

Five volumes of the *Barbour collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records* which were on back order have now arrived. They cover the towns of Colchester, Colebrook, Columbia, Cornwall Fairfield, Farmington, Hartford, Huntington, Kent, Killingly and Lebanon;

In the *Mayflower Families in Progress Series* we have added the following: *William Brewster of the Mayflower and the Fifth Generation. Descendant of his son Love* (2003); *George Soule of the Mayflower and his Descendants in the fifth and Sixth Generations* (2003); *Philip Delano of the Fortune 1621 and his Descendants for four generations*.

Once again Joyce reminded members that our Library is housed on the sixth floor of the North York Public Library. She also said if asked the librarians are willing to look up and photocopy specific pages from our collection.

Editor's report by Dale Lahey. Dale has been Newsletter Editor for six years. However, he says it is time for him to give it up. He has every confidence Bob White will do an outstanding job. Having said that, he wished to take this opportunity to thank us all for

the help and support we have given him over those years. During his editorship, Dale said, he has received many words of appreciation for the work he has done, and that, for him has been most gratifying of all.

Report of the Database Committee by Dale Lahey. It's been a slow process. At present the Database Committee consists primarily of himself, with some assistance from Myrna Geldart, and Mary Nichols, and



Fred, Betty and Lois Abraham

offers of assistance of others on the Board. As stated in the newsletter, we are in the process of attempting to digitize our records. We have therefore created a database of basic information on members. We now seek brief biographies, a head and shoulder picture, and your lineages back to the Mayflower passengers from you. Dale asked any member who has not sent in his or her pictures or biography yet, to do so.

Dale went on to say the biographies he has received to date have been wonderfully informative. We have at least one distinguished artist and photographer in our midst, one member who worked on the US space program, one who is distinguished in bio-chemistry, and one who is a Lieutenant Commander in our Naval services.

The pictures are starting to come in as well. Unfortunately, Dale said, he lost the roll of pictures of members he took at the last year's Banquet. He asked all those members who had their picture taken by him last year to take a few minutes at the end of this meeting to have it done again.

Public Relations by Judith Mackay-Kowalski. Judith has sent a press release across the internet to over 40 newspapers across Canada. She is in the process of starting a Society scrapbook. She asked members to send her copies of various articles they may have collected over the years which they feel are pertinent to the history of our society.

Nominating Committee. Robert White, chairman. There were no nominations from floor. The nominees up for positions on the Board of Assistants are as follows: Joyce Cutler - Governor; Susan Roser - Deputy Governor; Mel Donald - Elder and member at large; Myrna Geldart. Passed on a motion by Bob White seconded by Dale Lahey. Although her term as Governor doesn't officially end until the 1 January, Susan took this opportunity to officially present Joyce with the Governor's medallion.

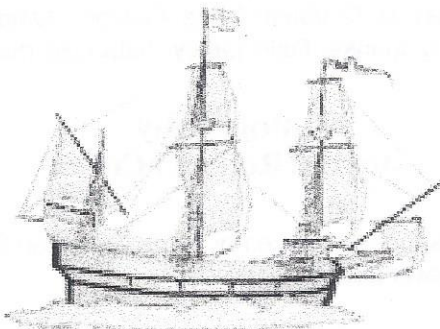
By-Law Vote. Dale Lahey, chairman. For too long we have been saddled with carrying members who for some reason or other be, it death or disinterest, have neglected to renew their membership. Dale moved that we approve the by-law as it was stated in the fall issue of the Canadian Pilgrim. Motion seconded by Deborah Clarke. 25 members at the Banquet voted to ratify the new by-law. Two opposed. Since we received 28 approvals through the mail the By-law passed 53 to 2. That concluded the Business part of the meeting.



Joyce Cutler and Susan Roser

After the toast to the Queen and the saying of Grace we sat down to a buffet lunch.

After the meal we held the raffle. Prizes included a baseball cap with the ship *Mayflower* on it; a *Mayflower* cup and saucer, a book on William Bradford and a model of the *Mayflower*.



Governor Visits Alberta Colony by Susan Roser

I was extremely pleased to be invited to the Annual Meeting of the Alberta Colony, on November 1, 2003 in Calgary. It was a quick weekend trip but my hosts made use of every moment. Upon arriving Friday, Oct. 31, Regent Bill Parsons and his wife Lynda, and Secretary/Treasurer Ann Murphy and her husband Jim,



Bill Parsons and Susan Roser

picked me up at the airport and we immediately set out for Banff. It was a spectacular trip - having never before been in Alberta, the drive through the mountains was breathtaking! As was Banff itself, nestled in the mountains - and the deer that crossed the road in the middle of town was picture perfect (planned of course, by my hosts!). Lunch at a restored train station at Lake Louise, dinner in downtown Banff and drinks at the Banff Springs Hotel (with another "planned" deer) - it was absolutely wonderful.

Saturday, Nov. 1 was reserved for visiting downtown Calgary, a remarkable city with such an interesting mix of old and new architecture. And scattered throughout the city are the most fascinating works of art, sculptures and statues. And who would think to find one of the world's largest indoor gardens on the 4th floor of the TD Square - the Devonian Gardens, complete with waterfalls, tropical plants, flowers, fountains, fish, turtles - what a great place to brown bag it! Lunch at the top of the Calgary Tower, 191 metres high, topped off the visit with a panoramic view of this unique city. Saturday evening was of course, the dinner and Annual Meeting of the Alberta Colony. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting many of our Alberta members, including two former Regents, Margaret Brodylo and Phillip Thorpe, all of whom made me feel so very welcome.

Sunday morning came much too quickly and it was off to the airport (an experience in itself!). I had been having such a good time, with such nice people, that I really

hated to leave. (Although I didn't regret leaving the bitter cold weather and all that snow!) My most sincere thanks go out to the members of the Alberta Colony for giving me such a warm welcome; to my four "tour guides" for devoting their weekend to me and showing me such a fantastic time, and to Bill and Lynda Parsons for being such gracious hosts and opening their home to me during my visit. It was an experience I'll never forget!

Annual Report of the B.C. Colony

by

Robert W. White, Regent

The Fall meeting of the B. C. Colony was held on November 16, 2003 at the home of Dick and Joan Stace-Smith. There were 20 members and associate members in attendance, as well as two guests. We were very pleased to welcome Eleanor Lydiard, the widow of past Regent George Lydiard who was one of the founding members of the B.C. Colony, and hope that she will continue to attend our meetings.

Our guest speaker, Fleur Matthewson, gave a very interesting presentation on the services offered by Trafford Publishing. Trafford is a Victoria based company that specializes in "on demand publishing."

"On-demand publishing is a practical combination of conventional publishing tasks, print-on-demand manufacturing and Internet marketing and retailing. Using print-on-demand equipment, complete books are manufactured one-at-a-time to fill incoming orders -- which means the self-publishing author *need not make a large investment in preprinted books stored in a warehouse.* Trafford handles publishing's legal and administrative requirements, helps with publicity and manages the retail sales. Selling directly to the customer over the Internet is very cost-effective and opens a global market for your book. Whichever package is chosen, the author retains copyright, sets the retail price, decides on design and appearance, and directs publicity work."

This is a method of book publishing ideally suited to the genealogist who wishes to write and publish a family history, but knows that only a very few copies of the book will be purchased. The meeting looked at several books published by Trafford including a family history

prepared by Carl Stymiest of the United Empire Loyalist Association. This book was written using the Family Tree Maker Software and published by Trafford. Ms. Matthewson's presentation stimulated considerable discussion and a great many questions.

Our current membership stands at 30 with 20 of this number designated as full members.

The next meeting of the B.C. Colony will be held on April 18, 2004 and the home of Joan and Frank Fishleigh in Mission.

B.C. Pilgrim

Dale Philipott the current editor issued Volume 5, No. 1 of the *B.C. Pilgrim* in October. In addition to the Regent's Report by Bob White there were articles by Abbie Thompson (past Regent) and Dale Philipott. Dale wrote a particularly interesting essay on Governor Bradford. The text of *Who was Governor Bradford?* was based on information contained in the book *Governors of New Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay* by Jacob Bailey Moore, published in 1851. Dale has indicated that he might be interested in writing a further article dealing with the descendants of William Bradford on the West Coast of North America.

The B.C. Colony of Mayflower Descendants has a new website which can be found at <http://www.bcnd.northstrat.com>.

Pictures and Biographies for the Digital Database

The Board is working apace to complete its new digital database of members. Many of you have responded with your biographies and pictures. Quite a few have not. Remember, the "biography" need be only a short write up of about 200-300 words. The picture should be a color head and shoulders photo no more than 2 inches square. We would appreciate it if you could give a few minutes to this in the next while. Bios and pics may be sent to me by email at <dlahey@albedo.net>, or mailed to Dale Lahey at 72 Vanier Drive, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2L3. Many thanks, Dale Lahey, database coordinator.

Biography

Joyce (Rogers) Cutler

Joyce is the new Governor of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Joyce was born in Eaton, one of the eastern Townships in Quebec, the oldest of four children. Her parents were Herman Rogers and Luva House. During WW II, the family moved to the Niagara District and then Niagara Falls, where she grew up with her two brothers, Vernol and Ivan and her sister Gail.

She attended Lakeshore Teachers College and York University in Toronto and spent her teaching career working in Mississauga. She began with elementary grades, but then decided to teach high school, where her last teaching years were spent as an art teacher and Department Head of Fine Arts. She is now retired and enjoys working on genealogy and other hobbies.

Joyce has five children, John, Michael, Daniel, Carole and Kathleen all by her first husband John Heeny, plus a total of eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She now lives in Oakville and is married to Murray Cutler, co-publisher of Old Autos Newspaper.

In 1996 Joyce became a member of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants and joined the Board of Assistants in 1997, and now serves as governor and librarian.

2003 - New Members

We welcome to the Society!



New
Members

James A. Hubbard, 195
Indian Point Rd., Glen
Haven, N.S. B3Z 2S1,
#397, Warren.

Tania L. Tost, 1334 Reed
Pl., Regina SK, S4X 3G6,
#398, Warren.

Ruth E. Curran, Box 131,
St. Stephen, N.B. E3L
2X1, #399, Warren.

S. Lynn Jansen, 1619 Botting Bay, Moose Jaw,
SK, S6H 7S7, #400, Warren

Mary A. Birch, 5595 Homewood Rd., Pensacola,
FL 32504- 8317, #401, Hopkins.

Family Connections: James is the son of member Caroline Hubbard; Tania is the daughter of member Lee Tost and sister of member Tyler Sean Tost; Lynn is the daughter of member Louise McGillivray.

The National Institute for Genealogical Studies

Susan is continuing to teach an on-line course on Mayflower Research for the University of Toronto. This course is designed for those who have either found, or suspect they have, Mayflower ancestry. The course includes details on conducting research in each of

the New England states as well as instructions on the documentation requirements required for successfully proving a Mayflower lineage to join the society. The course is offered twice a year, spring and fall. For further details go to the institute's site at www.genealogicalstudies.com click on "Courses" then scroll down and click on "Research: Mayflower Ancestry".



The
Business
Page

Dues Notice

Please remember that your 2005 membership dues of \$40 are required by November 30, 2004. Send your payment to:

L. Allyn Dean, Treasurer
86 Constance Street
Toronto, ON, M6R 1S6

The Canadian Society of *Mayflower* Descendants depends on your dues and donations. **Why not pay several years in advance.**

Donations

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

Moving?

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

The Web

The website for our Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants may found at:

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.

Board of Assistants

Governor: Joyce Cutler, 448 Third Line, Oakville ON, L6L 4A5; Phone: 905-827-5304; joyce.cutler@sympatico.ca.

Deputy Governor: Susan Roser (see Historian below)

Regent Alberta: Bill Parsons parsons@ezpost.com,

Regent British Columbia: Bob White, rwhite42@hotmail.com,

Historian: Susan E. Roser, 4137 Tremaine Rd, Milton ON, L9T 2Y1, Phone: 905-875-4051; roser@iprimus.ca

Treasurer: L. Allyn Dean, 86 Constance St, Toronto ON, M6R 1S6; Phone: 416-762-9243; luther@istar.ca

Editor: Robert W. White, 3468 Chesterfield Avenue, North Vancouver, BC, V7N 3N3; Phone 604 984 9664; rwhite42@hotmail.com.

Recording Secretary: Deborah Clarke, 38 Dennett Dr, Agincourt ON, M1S 2E7; Phone: 416-293-7215;

Captain: Dale T. Lahey, 72 Vanier Dr., Guelph ON, N1G 2L3; Phone: 519-836-8247; dlahey@albedo.net.

Surgeon: Dr Ian Anderson, 3 Linden Crescent, Rothesay, N.B. E2E 5R8 anders@health.nb.ca,

Elder: Rev. Melvin V. Donald, 5 Deering Crescent, Willowdale, ON M2M 2A2

Counsellor: Christopher Baldwin, 3078 w 24TH Ave, Vancouver BC, V6L 1R7.

Members at Large: Mary Nichols mary.e.nichols@sympatico.ca; Lynne Webb hathaway-2000@comnet.ca, Bob White white@lindsaycomp.on.ca; Judith McKay-Kowalski jmackay@barint.on.ca; Myrna Geldart, geldart@infinity.net.

Annual Meeting and Compact Luncheon November 13, 2004

Toronto Cricket, Curling and Skating Club

Mark your calendar for this event. Full details will be provided in the fall newsletter.

James Chilton Family Society

William Munsil, who may be reached at the address indicated below, is interested in starting a James Chilton Family Society. He would like to hear from anyone who has Chilton ancestry. See also the Family Societies link on the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants webpage.

wmunsil@cox.net

William W Munsil, 4043 E 2nd St.,
Tucson AZ
85711-1011, USA

The Governor's Column by Joyce Cutler



The next three years promise to be a very interesting time for our Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants and I feel fortunate to have been elected your governor at this point in our society's history. I feel this because my term of office will include our 25th Anniversary which takes place in 2005.

First our thanks have to go to Susan, who has done a great job of stepping in to finish off the last term as governor despite her busy schedule. She has worked very hard to set up this year's events and also has put the plans in motion for our up coming anniversary celebrations.

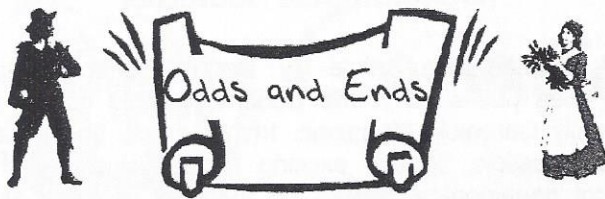
Very soon, on Saturday, May 8th, 2004, we will hold our annual Spring luncheon at Dundurn Castle in Hamilton. The meeting and luncheon will be followed by a guided tour of the castle. A tour through the castle is like stepping into the past. I'm sure you will find it very interesting and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

In May 2005, our Governor General, Robert Davis, is going to be a guest at our Spring meeting and luncheon in Toronto, which is an excellent way to start off our anniversary year.

In September 2005, which is also a Congress Year, we are going to celebrate our 25th anniversary with a visit to Plymouth. What an amazing opportunity to meet not only our fellow Canadian members, but members from all across the United States, in the town where our ancestors lived and worked together so many years ago. A number of members have already booked their accommodations for this event.

Another project being planned is to publish a history of our Canadian Society. If anyone has pictures, article or anecdotes that could be used in this book please let us know. These contributions would be much appreciated and would help make our work more interesting. Our plan is to have this book ready in time for our 25th anniversary.

I think you will agree with me that we are approaching a very exciting and enjoyable time in the history of our Canadian Society.



What is the Shelf life of a CD-ROM

I'm sure that most of us are familiar with the old adage "save early and save often." What could be more catastrophic for a family historian than to lose years of research in the wink of an eye as a result of a major computer crash. However, will the CD-ROMs that we burn in order to save our valuable data stand the test of time?

If a CD-ROM is **not** manufactured properly, the lifetime can be very short, perhaps only a few years. This can happen if the edge of the disc is not properly sealed, and oxygen reaches the metal surface. If the disc is manufactured properly, it **could** last a very long time. "Most CD-ROMs **should** last for more than a human lifetime." There are supposedly new standards for testing CD-ROMs that are expected to result in discs that will enjoy a life span of more than a thousand years. Reading a disc will not shorten the lifetime, as the laser in a CD-ROM drive is very low power, and does not harm the disk in any way. It is suggested by some authorities that each time you write to a CR-RW you decrease the shelf life of the CD. It remains, however, that CD-ROMs are not permanent. The shelf life has not been proven. An article written for *The Computer Genealogist* (NEHGS) by Maureen Taylor states that "manufacturers now claim that CD-ROMS will last at least fifty years." This is clearly uncharted territory and it behoves us to resave our files on a regular basis to the newest CD-ROMs available on the market.

The following website has some useful information on backing up your files.

<http://www.wellesley.edu/Computing/Backup/backup.html>

Gun Laws in Plimoth Colony



Guns laws are nothing new. Even the residents of Plimoth Colony passed laws governing firearms back in the early 1600s. Well, there was one major difference. Any member of the militia who came to church in Plimoth Colony **WITHOUT** a loaded gun was subject to a 12 pence fine.

Nova Scotia Colony in the Works

Twenty members who reside in Nova Scotia will have received a letter from Susan Roser along with a copy of a petition to sign, the preliminary step to forming our third Mayflower colony. The response so far has been extremely positive, with everyone looking forward to the chance to meet and get to know one another. If you have not yet mailed your signed petition back to Susan, please do so as soon as possible. Once we have received them all back, we can move on to our next step, which will be for our Nova Scotia members to hold an organizational meeting, hopefully sometime this summer.

Why Family History?

In all of us there is a hunger, marrow-deep, to know our heritage - to know who we are and where we have come from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is still a vacuum. An emptiness. And the most disquieting loneliness."

-- Alex Haley

Ohio Repository, (Canton, Ohio), 07 January 1825, page 3:

DIED.—In Chester, Pennsylvania, recently, the Rev. John Crutzer. He was in the pulpit, and had just given his text—"We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ," when he fell and instantly expired

Ancestry Daily News, 7 Jan 04

Black Sheep

A family historian who was writing his family history was dismayed to find that an ancestor had been publicly hanged. In a moment of inspiration he wrote "He died during a public ceremony, when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed beneath him."

DoHistory.org

Dohistory.org is an excellent teaching website for anyone interested in history. In particular there is good section on making use of primary resources.

The History Tool Kit provides "short essays designed to help the beginning historian conduct and organize his or her own historical research."

<http://www.dohistory.org/home.html>

The Salem Witch Trials and Ergot Poisoning

A number of researchers have concluded that ergot poisoning was ultimately responsible for the accusations of witchcraft against some 250 people (mainly women) during 1692 in Salem, Massachusetts. The evidence does indicate an involvement of the ergot alkaloids. Rye was grown in the area in the late seventeenth century; records show warm rainy weather during the spring and summer of 1691; and the village of Salem was located close to swampy meadows. All of these facts point to the possibility of fungal infestation of the grain used for the community's flour. The symptoms displayed by the victims were consistent with ergotism, particularly convulsive ergotism: diarrhea, vomiting, convulsions, hallucinations, seizures, babbling, bizarre distortions of the limbs, tingling sensations, and acute sensory disturbances.

It seems probable that, at least initially, ergotism may have been the cause of the Salem witch-hunts; almost all the thirty victims who claimed to be bewitched were girls or young women, and young people who are known to be more susceptible to the effect of the ergot alkaloids. Later events, however, including the trials of the alleged witches and an increasing number of accusations, often point more to hysteria or just plain malice."

*Napoleon's Buttons
How 17 Molecules Changed History*
by

Penny le Couteur & Jay Burreson
Jerem P. Tarcher/Putnam, New York, NY.
P. 241

HMCS Mayflower (K 191)

HMCS *Mayflower*, a Flower class corvette, was built for the Royal Canadian Navy by Canada Vickers Ltd., Montreal, in 1940. She was commissioned on the 15th of May 1941 and saw service in North Atlantic on convoy escort duties until the 31st of May 1945. She was scrapped at Inverkeithing on 20 September 1949.

Genealogical Societies

An interesting article by Donna Potter Phillips was published in the December 2003 edition of *Family Chronicle Magazine*. In her article she poses the question: "In this exciting Internet age, will the local genealogical society go the way of rotary dial telephones, number 2 pencils and CPM computers?" Her answer was a "resounding" no. She suggests that genealogical societies can provide a vast amount of information that the individual cannot find easily in any other way. She goes on to stress that this applies to both the beginner and the seasoned researcher. It is possible to do genealogy "in a closet" but working with others in a common pursuit can be infinitely more rewarding and, in general, more fun.

Editor's Column

I am delighted to be your new editor and know that I will need to work very hard to maintain the high standard for this newsletter set by Dale Lahey. I will certainly do my best and would appreciate any comments that you might like to send along.



From the
Editor

I won't introduce myself, as this has been accomplished in the Minutes of the 23rd Annual Meeting included with this edition.

Unlike most of the members of your Board I do not live in Ontario but rather in B.C. I do, however, visit Ontario from time to time and was able to experience Toronto this past February while en route to a short holiday in Argentina. I found the weather "bracing" but was reliably informed by my son, who is a resident, that it was particularly mild. I will keep that in mind for future visits.

In another column I would like to provide some historical perspective on Spain's colonization of South America and, in particular Argentina, as compared to the experience of our Pilgrim ancestors in Plymouth Colony.

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Contributions of Mayflower and Pilgrim related articles and news of members are welcomed.

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