

SPRING LUNCHEON REMITTANCE FORM

Menu Entrée Choices:

Baked Chicken Cordon Bleu ~ or ~ Grilled Salmon ~ or ~ Roasted Pork Tenderloin

Entrées include green salad & dressing, bread basket, chef's choice of starch and vegetables, dessert, and beverage (coffee, tea, or iced tea). The meal cost for each choice, inclusive, is **\$25 per person**.
A child's plate of macaroni and cheese or peanut butter and jelly sandwich is \$5.

Please help us avoid the risk of paying for a lunch you didn't eat or not having a place at the table for you!

Reservation deadline (including payment): Monday, May 8, 2017, by noon

If you register for lunch and cannot attend, please cancel your reservation for a full refund!
To cancel, CALL Francie Fessler at 503-399-0442 by noon on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, or you will be charged the full cost of your lunch.

-----Cut here and remit bottom half with your payment-----

Your name _____ OR state member # _____

Lunch guest(s) name(s) _____

Lunch selection: (1) Chicken Cordon Bleu No. _____ X \$25 = _____
(2) Grilled salmon No. _____ X \$25 = _____
(3) Pork tenderloin No. _____ X \$25 = _____
(4) Child's plate No. _____ X \$ 5 = _____

Donations: To the Oregon Mayflower Society.....\$ _____
To the Cascade Colony.....\$ _____
To the Mt. Hood Colony.....\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED\$ _____

Make check payable to Mayflower Descendants of Oregon and mail with this remittance slip to:

Francie Fessler, Membership Chair, 5753 Aetna St. SE, Salem, OR 97317

_____ **Mark here to save postage, printing, and paper by receiving your Oregon Pilgrim newsletter via email each issue.**

Name _____ **Email address:** _____



OREGON PILGRIM

NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

Vol. 28, No. 1 – Spring 2017

SPRING 2017 LUNCHEON MEETING Saturday, May 13

Hayden's Grill ~ 8187 Tualatin-Sherwood Road, Tualatin, OR 97062
(Exit 289 west from Interstate-5, at the west end of the Century Hotel)

The Board of Assistants will meet 10 a.m.-noon in the board room.

Social hour at 11:30 a.m. ~ Seating for lunch at noon ~ Meal service to follow

Those registered for the luncheon meeting are asked to assemble by noon in Hayden's Lakefront Grill dining room. A program with re-enactors Mark and Donna Hinds is scheduled. They will present a vignette portraying a real Oregon Trail pioneer couple who've made a life for themselves and their family out west.

About Mark and Donna Hinds (Excerpted from article by Laura Fosmire, *Statesman Journal*, June 16, 2014):

The Hinds are retired teachers who now spend their days out at Champoeg as costumed interpreters, quite literally bringing history to life. If they aren't in the park, they're either researching some aspect of early pioneer life in Oregon or visiting with their grandchildren in their West Salem neighborhood ... The recently retired Hinds began considering the future and how they would spend their time outside of a September-to-June schedule. They knew they had to distract themselves with something the first weekend of September, when they would otherwise be returning to school.

"We had gone to Champoeg for camping, and there was a sign that said, 'We need volunteers for Farmstead Day,' which is always that first weekend of September," Donna said. "I said to Mark, 'We could do that.'" That first weekend distraction has turned into a regular fascination for the Hinds, who spend up to 40 hours a week playing various characters at Champoeg and researching their history. They've launched the costumed interpretation program and taught others how to bring history to life — what to wear, what to talk about, even which idioms to use.

So what is it about dressing up and playing a historical role that they love so much? "I think it's probably the love of learning," Mark said. "We've always been lifelong learners." "Education has always been fun," Donna agreed. "It's mind-expanding. I am helping people understand what came before. I stand on somebody's shoulders that came before me and unless I go back and look for that, it will not just be presented to me."

If you visit Champoeg's informational center this summer, you'll probably encounter Mark or Donna in the museum, encouraging kids to touch the exhibits and explore. There are real beaver pelts to pet and a hand-carved wooden yoke to carry pails of water. They'll casually engage visitors in conversation or leave them to explore on their own, but they're always eager to share their wealth of knowledge about Champoeg's history.



Dear Mayflower Cousins and Friends,

The Board of Assistants and your governor bring you warmest greetings, with the hope of seeing many of you at our spring meeting when we shall be entertained by Oregon Trail re-enactors. Plan to discover what these pioneers and our Mayflower Pilgrim ancestors may have had in common. Also at this meeting we will meet our young scholarship winners. Come and be inspired!



The General Society of Mayflower Descendants is holding its 41st General Congress in Plymouth, Mass., September 8-13, 2017, and we encourage Oregon members to attend and explore their roots in this historic town. The 2017 Congress will focus on the upcoming 400-year anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower Pilgrims in America, and all states are asked to organize events and displays which will help raise public awareness. Some Oregon members have already begun work on this project. One fact stands out. The significance of the Mayflower Compact in American history is often overlooked. It is the aim of the Oregon Society to emphasize the Mayflower Compact and its effect on the formative years of American democracy.

John Quincy Adams said in an 1802 speech: “This is perhaps the only instance in human history of that positive original social compact, which speculative philosophers have imagined as the only legitimate source of government. Here was a unanimous and personal assent by all the individuals of the community, to the association by which they became a nation.”

Eighteen years later, Daniel Webster, referring to the Mayflower Compact, said in a speech that Plymouth Rock was a symbol “of the imperishable ideals upon which the new nation had been founded.” A little more than a century later, Winston Churchill wrote about the signing of the Mayflower Compact in his *History of the English Speaking Peoples*: “Forty-one of the more responsible members thereupon drew up a solemn compact which is one of the more remarkable documents in history, a spontaneous covenant for political organization.”

We welcome your suggestions to help Oregonians remember the landing of the Mayflower Pilgrims nearly 400 years ago. Please give it some thought and plan to participate in this once in a lifetime event.

Warmest regards,
Patricia Sproul Petersen, Governor

BOARD OF ASSISTANTS MEETING MINUTES ~ by Beth Lambright, Outgoing Secty.

November 19, 2016. Governor Terri Schieber called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. In attendance was Deputy Governor Patrice Petersen, Treasurer Jane Slack, Jennifer Kent, Captain Bud Hagan, Elder Rev. Richard Bellingham, Deputy Governor of Mt. Hood Colony Lloyd Kendrick, Secretary Beth Lambright, Membership Chair Frances Fessler, Deputy Governor of Cascade Colony Cleve Twitchell, and Historian Joan Hunter. Governor Schieber asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the last meeting. None being made, she made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion passed.

Treasurer Jane Slack reported a balance of \$26,764.06 in our account and will be paying at least \$3,000 in National dues in January. Thank you notes were passed around from our latest scholarship winner. Ms. Slack proposed that as we currently have money we could potentially donate, that we consider donating \$1,000 to the Mayflower II Restoration fund. Discussion ensued. Deputy Governor Petersen moved that we donate \$1,000 to this fund. The motion passed. Historian Joan Hunt suggested that in the future motions should include the wording “from the general fund” (or other source from which we are spending).

Board of Assistants Meeting Minutes, continued...

Historian Joan Hunter began her report by reminding the board that last year it approved funding for a subscription to ancestry.com for the historian position. That funding needs to be approved again for this coming year. Ms. Hunter went on to report we are receiving a record amount of interest from prospective members. She reviewed with the board how a person starts the process. Historian Hunter is hoping to track how people are hearing about our society. Historian Hunter was congratulated by the board for improving our Oregon society in becoming one of the top states in the country that is gaining membership. Treasurer Slack added six members have actually rejoined as well. Membership is soaring in Oregon.

Ms. Hunter shared with the board we might want to consider what is charged for the one-time application fee for both new members and junior members. A recent issue of the *Mayflower Quarterly* showed a comparison of all the states revealing that Oregon is in the middle of that assessment, but is the lowest state in what is charged for junior membership. Ms. Hunter suggested we consider changing our fee for supplemental membership and junior membership. Secretary Lambright made a motion that the board designate \$150 from the general fund to renew the ancestry.com subscription from November 2016 to November 2017 as well as \$40 for a one-year subscription to the *Mayflower Descendant*. Ms. Slack seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Deputy Governor of Cascade Colony Cleve Twitchell shared with the board about their most recent meeting on local pilots of World War II. Lieutenant Governor Patrice Petersen reported on Mt. Hood Colony's summer meeting on the river cruise ship Portland Spirit. Ms. Petersen shared that their colony is still working hard in trying to assemble a full slate of officers. They currently have two officers for the coming year, but need to fill four more positions. Governor Schieber reminded us that our colonies are so important for the sharing of our common Mayflower history, getting to know each other, and keeping our Pilgrim ideals alive. It was decided that the need for a state treasurer and colony officers will be addressed at the General Meeting to follow.

Captain Bud Hagan suggested it would be helpful if our society had a membership directory with pictures as well as contact information. Jennifer Kent affirmed that a directory would meet a real need. She shared that she has had experience with this kind of project and that it worked well. The board discussed the proposal. It was recommended that this directory could be in a binder format, allowing for changing out or entering new pages as the society has need.

Governor Schieber introduced Mrs. Francie Fessler, our new Membership Chair. Ms. Fessler reported she is up to date with contact information but is trying to make our current formatting software accept space for reporting ancestors. The board suggested that with the prospect of making a new directory, the software should be updated as well to include the information we want to report. Secretary Lambright suggested that with a new directory the board should also purchase a more current up-to-date software format.

Junior Chair Beth Lambright gave a report on the Scholarship Committee. Because of the recent sad, untimely death of our Scholarship Chair and former governor, John Billington, all the scholarship forms will need to be re-sent to our members since the contact information is now incorrect. Deputy Patrice Petersen asked Ms. Lambright if she would fill in the position of Scholarship Chair. Ms. Lambright said she would accept for one year and would contact Kim Billington about forwarding any scholarship applications. Historian Joan Hunter suggested that we should also convey our desire to receive any boxes/records John Billington kept with Mayflower information. Governor Schieber stated the board would select a committee of judges for the scholarship competition.

Junior Chair Beth Lambright handed out the most recent compilation of our junior membership. As of November, we have 72 juniors under the age of 25. Some live out of state; 53 live in Oregon. Historian Joan Hunter shared that two of these junior members have applied for regular adult membership. Newsletters have been sent out to every junior member, and new juniors have all received membership certificates. Treasurer Jane Slack asked about junior members whose sponsors may no longer be in good standing. Ms. Lambright replied our bylaws state that once a Junior Member is accepted they are considered a member regardless of the standing of their sponsor.

Board of Assistants Meeting Minutes, continued...

Governor Schieber asked the board to consider raising the junior application fee to \$20. The board discussed the proposal. Historian Joan Hunter moved that the Oregon Mayflower Society raise the fee for junior membership from \$6 to \$20 effective January 1, 2017. The motion was seconded and passed. Governor Schieber stated this fee change would be announced at the General Meeting.

Treasurer Jane Slack shared that Membership Chair Francie Fessler will be collecting money for the next state meeting and is going to reformat the form members remit to exclude the line for scholarship donations and include Ms. Fessler's email address.

The 2020 Committee report was delivered by Deputy Governor Patrice Petersen. Members Ms. Petersen, Mr. Kendrick and Ms. Lambright shared about the possibility of our participating in Portland's Starlight Parade. Ms. Petersen shared she is hoping to schedule a 2020 Committee meeting for spring of 2017.

During the discussion of unfinished business, the board assigned Secretary Lambright to contact the Billington family to follow up with them about a meeting John Billington had in the last year with his accountant concerning the 501(c)3 application. Ms. Lambright said she would follow up.

Under new business, Governor Schieber asked the board to review the slate of officers for 2017. She stated three offices are still vacant: treasurer, surgeon, and counselor. The new editor of *The Pilgrim* newsletter is Connie Ganz.

Governor Schieber shared a proposal to donate a brick to the walkway at our national Mayflower Society Winslow House in Plymouth, Mass. The cost would be \$250. Cleve Twitchell said he would write the inscription.

Governor Schieber also suggested that we rename our scholarship "The Governor John Billington Memorial Scholarship." Ms. Hunter moved to make the name change effective Jan. 1, 2018. The motion passed.

The next state meeting will be held May 13, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned by Governor Schieber at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth Lambright, Outgoing Secretary

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES ~ by Beth Lambright, Outgoing Secretary

November 19, 2016. Our Compact Meeting was called to order by Governor Terri Schieber at 12:07 p.m.

The invocation was delivered by Elder Rev. Richard Bellingham, and Captain Bud Hagan led members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions were made as each tables' members stood and shared their name and hometown.

Historian Joan Hunter called the Roll and Members stepped forward to light the candle with their pilgrim ancestor's name.

Governor Schieber announced the Oregon Mayflower Society scholarship will be renamed the John Billington Memorial Scholarship. She also announced an increase in junior membership fee to \$20 effective Jan. 1, 2017.

General Meeting Minutes, continued...

Governor Schieber then introduced the following slate of officers for election to our Oregon Mayflower Society for 2017-2019:

Governor—Patrice Petersen
Deputy Governor—Beth Lambright
Secretary—Jennifer Kent
Historian—Joan Hunter
Captain—Bud Hagan
Elder—Rev. Richard Bellingham.

This slate was voted on and accepted by the members, and the installation of these officers took place.

Incoming Governor Patrice Petersen awarded Outgoing Governor Schieber with a special medal given former governors for serving their society. All the members showed their appreciation and thanks to Ms. Schieber for her three years of fine service as governor.

Governor Petersen delivered a brief acceptance, addressing the importance of our heritage as Mayflower descendants. She reminded all that while our country has just passed through some difficult times and a divisive election year, we have inherited from our forefathers the principles of free speech, freedom of religion, and a spirit of working together for the good of our country. She reminded us the Mayflower Compact was a document reflecting that spirit of all working together. Lastly, Governor Petersen made an appeal for members to consider serving as an officer in unfilled positions on state or colony Boards.

The meeting was then adjourned for lunch and a short program by Deputy Governor Beth Lambright on the history of Forefathers Day and Compact Day.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth Lambright, Outgoing Secretary

MT. HOOD COLONY REPORT ~ by Patrice Petersen, outgoing Lt. Governor

The Mt Hood Colony met for lunch at the Century Hotel on April 1, 2017. A new slate of officers were installed and included: Terry Maloney, Lt Governor; Ellen Hopkins, Deputy Lt. Governor; Joni Walker, Secretary; Debbie Ketchum, Treasurer; Lois Streimer, Elder; Sue Glen, Historian; and Bud Hagen, Captain. The program, titled “Past, Present and Future of Mt. Hood Colony” featured a review of the Colony since its inception in 2006, where it is today and what our hopes are for the future of the Colony. Following lunch, members discussed possible exhibits for their local areas to raise public awareness about the upcoming 400th year anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower Pilgrims in America.

CASCADE COLONY REPORT ~ by Cleve Twitchell, Deputy Governor

Cascade Colony, based in Medford, continues to meet twice a year, generally on the fourth Tuesday of April and September. These luncheon meetings are held at the China Hut restaurant, 450 S. Riverside Ave., Medford. Last September, the colony heard a talk about the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) of World War II, by Bill Miller.

As this edition of the *Oregon Pilgrim* was going to press, a meeting was planned for 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 22. Program chair Yvonne Earnest was busy lining up another interesting talk - to be announced. All are welcome.

TREASURER'S REPORT ~ by Jane Slack

October 1, 2016–March 18, 2017

September 30, 2016 Checkbook Balance: \$23,966.81

Income

2017 Dues	3,210.00
Meals	1,325.00
Applications --12	1,525.00
Mayflower Pins	60.00
Jr. Member Applications --17	102.00
Scholarship Raffle	118.00
Mt. Hood Colony due/donations	223.00
Cascade Colony donations	73.00
Oregon Mayflower donations	<u>278.00</u>

Total Income \$6,914.00

Expenses

Fall OR Pilgrim Printing	265.00
Past Governor Pin for T. Schieber	225.75
Hayden Grill	1,320.69
Mayflower Society--12 app	900.00
Link Value Host--Web page	59.40
Jr. Membership Supplies	63.46
Historian Supplies	190.00
Plimoth Plantation-Mayflower 2 donate	1,000.00
GSMD John Billington Brick	250.00
Treasurer Supplies and Dues printing	40.49
Go Daddy Web page – Twitchell	45.57
Cobalt Web Design	215.00
OR Sec't of State – Petersen	15.00
Postmaster – Stamps	18.80
Mt. Hood Colony Dues	408.00
App Refund – Lynn Paul	25.00
GSMD – Annual Dues & Supplies	3,346.00
Mt. Hood Colony -- \$2 x 71=	142.00
Mt. Hood Colony donations	98.00
Cascade Colony -- \$2 x 34=	68.00
Cascade Colony donations	171.00
Membership Labels – Fessler	<u>12.99</u>

Total Expenses \$8,880.15

March 18, 2017 Checkbook Balance \$22,000.66



MEMBER MEMORIAL

We mourn the loss of our member and extend our condolences to the grieving family and friends.

John W. Billington
November 5, 2016

“A descendant of the first Mayflower colonists, John was twice elected to serve as the sitting Governor of the Mayflower Society of Oregon. During his tenure he established a scholarship fund to encourage the interest and participation of young people in their family’s genealogy.” ~ *The Oregonian* (11-29-16)

HISTORIAN'S REPORT ~ by Joan A. Hunter, Certified Genealogist

This officer has been very busy. Rarely does a day go by that she doesn't receive at least two to three queries about membership. At least once a week Plymouth sends a Preliminary Review requested by a prospective member, and this officer immediately contacts that individual. Many of these interested persons decide to apply for membership. Below is a list of the approved applications and supplementals since the fall 2016 newsletter. Please extend a warm welcome to these members. I hope as many new members as possible will attend our May meeting, and I look forward to meeting you.

Gerald "Jerry" Emil Adoff, OR #1037
11th generation from **William White**

Amber Eileen Glaab, OR #1038
13th generation from **Stephen Hopkins**

Nicholas Sheldon Glaab, OR #1039
13th generation from **Stephen Hopkins**

Catherine McNair Orfall, OFR #1040
12th generation from **John Howland**

William Harold Cook, OR #1041
11th generation from **Francis Cooke**

Aaron James Rousett, OR #1042
13th generation from **Francis Cooke**

Ian Michael Rousett, OR #1043
13th generation from **Francis Cooke**

Albert "Tad" Thomas Davies, OR #1044
11th generation from **Thomas Rogers**

Shelena Ramie Kutzer Green, OR # 1045
11th generation from **Edward Doty**



GENERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS (national)

Deputy Governor General (acting & nominated):
Terri Schieber

Assistant Governor General (nominated):
Patricia Sproul Petersen

The election will be held September 8-12, 2017, at the next Congress of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in Plymouth, Mass.

OREGON STATE OFFICERS

Governor.....Patricia Sproul Petersen
Deputy Governor.....Beth Lambright
Secretary.....Jennifer Kent
Treasurer.....Jane Slack
Historian/Applications.....Joan Hunter
Elder.....Rev. Richard Bellingham
Surgeon.....vacant
Counselor.....James Oberholtzer (nominated)
Captain.....Darwin (Bud) Hagan
Membership.....Francie Fessler

BOARD OF ASSISTANTS: The above-listed officers plus Francie Fessler, Connie Ganz, Terry Maloney, Susan O'Connell, Terri Schieber, Jane Slack, and Cleve Twitchell.

MT. HOOD COLONY OFFICERS

Lt. Governor.....Terry Maloney
Deputy Governor.....Ellen Hopkins
Secretary.....Joni Walker
Treasurer.....Debbie Ketchum
Captain.....Bud Hagan
Historian.....Sue Glen
Elder.....Lois Streimer

CASCADE COLONY OFFICERS

Lieutenant Governor..... Susan O'Connell
Deputy Governor.....Cleve Twitchell
Secretary.....vacant
Treasurer.....Helen Schreiner
ElderJohn Stewart
Captain.....John Stewart
Historian.....vacant

2017 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Scholarship Committee is proud to announce that TWO outstanding high school seniors were chosen to each receive a \$500 Scholarship from our Oregon Mayflower Society. They are: **Abigail Walker** of Hood River Valley High School and **Alexander Coleman** of Wilsonville High School.

Abigail Walker (Abby) is an outstanding scholar with Advanced Placement work in chemistry, U.S. history, U.S. government, and Spanish. She has been active in student government and is the current student body president. A winner of multiple academic awards, she has also played varsity basketball for her school. Abby is a junior member of the Oregon Mayflower Society and is the **granddaughter of member Joan Walker**.

Alexander Coleman (Alex) is an outstanding scholar with Advanced Placement work in English, calculus, psychology, biology, and economics. He has been active playing baseball for his school, singing in choir, serving as a mentor for incoming freshmen, and volunteering in his church. In addition, he has held multiple jobs, including forming his own company. Alex is a junior member of the Oregon Mayflower Society and is the **grandson of member Frederick Gast Jr.**

What My Mayflower Ancestry Means To Me

Alex Coleman, 2017 Scholarship Recipient

When I was younger, I would always remember our Turkey Days, when times were slow and I was with my family. Sitting down at the table, the Mayflower would always seem to come into the conversation. We would always talk about the Pilgrims and how we are descendants from a group of individuals that landed on these shores centuries ago. As religion was important to them, it has been to me. I can trace my ancestry and connections all the way to the Mayflower. The Pilgrims were the first documented European immigrants to settle in what is now the United States.

I was truly able to feel this connection in grade school. As a fourth grader, it was my chance to be one of my ancestors in the Thanksgiving play. I got the part I wanted; the excitement of playing the part of Myles Standish, the captain of the Mayflower, and walking - so to speak - in the shoes of my great-times-15 grandfather was an experience I always wanted to have. I watched both my older siblings have the same opportunity and still remember them both portraying Pilgrims in the same school play. I still wonder if my classmates ever believed my story of how I was related to Captain Standish and many other important Pilgrims that traveled across the Atlantic to find their way of life; or if they still think it was my way of landing the part of such an important historical figure. Honestly, I would have been happy in any role of the play; I was just excited to be acting out a piece of my family history.

With my Mayflower connections I have also have many other ancestors play out many important roles of American history; from the American Revolution, the Civil War, to President Adams and President Jackson (on my father's side). My historical connection to the United States runs deep and I am proud that I am a direct descendant from a group of individuals that have helped shape the United States.

The pilgrims had a deep connection with their religion; with a deep history also comes tradition, and my family is all about tradition. Growing up Catholic I have learned the importance of religion and being free to follow your beliefs. As a young Catholic I have been taught that it is important to go to church regularly and follow the guidelines of the church and participate in the traditions of the church. Understanding the religious freedom that the Pilgrims were looking for helps me understand what they went through as a group of people seeking a new land and way of life — a life where they were free to follow their beliefs and live independently from those who would persecute them and their beliefs.

I think about what my ancestors gave up to bring themselves to a new world of unknowns. I am thankful that through the centuries I have a connection from the past, and soon in a few months I will be leaving home to an unknown environment, that is college. I can have a sense of what they may have been feeling aboard the Mayflower and landing on the shores of North America, as I unpack my bags at my new home. I am thankful and blessed that this history is in my own blood and that it is significant to the history of my country.

What My Mayflower Ancestry Means to Me

Abby Walker, 2017 Scholarship Recipient

A few weeks ago, I was looking through a childhood scrapbook and came across an image that made me laugh. It showed me at age six, standing before my relatives at Thanksgiving dinner in a paper pilgrim bonnet and collar, grinning from ear to ear. It seemed like an accurate representation of the way I have always felt about history: excited and a little crazy, especially when crafts are involved.

My mother took that picture long before we knew about our family's Pilgrim ancestry. Back then, my knowledge of the Mayflower was mostly taught through song and children's books. My first-grade teacher told us about the voyage, Plymouth Colony, and the first Thanksgiving. Before Thanksgiving break, we sang a song about the Pilgrims' adventures in front of the whole school, dressed in the same paper vestige that appeared in that photograph. I remember telling my parents about it at dinner that night, and wearing my costume proudly all week in honor of the occasion. Of course, after Thanksgiving it came time to focus on Christmas, and I put my Pilgrim clothes away until the following November.

It was six years later that my grandmother found out that our family is descended from three Mayflower voyagers: John Alden, Priscilla Mullins, and Richard Warren. I associate her revelation with excitement and pride, but also confusion. In school, we had never learned about what happened to the pilgrims *after* the first Thanksgiving. I knew, logically, that they didn't just disappear after enjoying their turkey and potatoes, but I had never really considered their lives after the voyage, the first winter, and the famous meal. The idea that someone like me could be descended from the people that I had so long considered myths was strange to me.

Since then, I have learned more about the Mayflower voyagers. I know now that their lives were much more than a turkey dinner, and that they were real people with stories and feelings rather than cartoon characters who wore belt buckles on their hats. My Mayflower ancestry has helped me to understand the reality of their situation and appreciate them more as people, not myths. More than that, what I know about my heritage has helped to shape me into who I am today.

I have become more interested in my family's American history in the time since my grandmother's discovery. I've always loved history, and when I was younger I would devour books about girls who lived during different eras, including a fictional diary kept by a girl on the Mayflower. I read them with a happy kind of detachment, growing more interested with every hardship the characters faced. When I look back on these books now, I know that my own ancestors faced the same difficulties, and that their struggles were very, very real. They must have believed that their new lives would be worth the hardships, believed in the opportunities America would hold. Nearly four hundred years later, I believe the same thing.

When I see migrants in my own community, I am more empathetic to their situation now that I understand what my own ancestors went through. Like the Hispanic people I see every day, John Alden, Priscilla Mullins, and Richard Warren faced many hardships while trying to reach the New World. And, like modern-day migrants, the Pilgrims' struggles did not end once they reached their destination. They struggled for a long time to get settled and to rebuild the lives they had left behind. Knowing my ancestors' stories, I have gained compassion for my neighbors. It has inspired me to become fluent in the Spanish language; I want to use it to help newcomers settle into this country.

Most of all, I'm more appreciative of the freedoms that this country provides now that I know that my ancestors had a hand in shaping them. Before they even set foot on Plymouth Rock, they drafted and signed the Mayflower Compact, effectively setting a precedent of democracy that, years later, America's founding fathers would use to create the Constitution. Rather than institute another monarchy, they set up a system where all men were created equal. The Pilgrims set an example that we still follow today, and I am grateful for that.

Abby Walker scholarship essay, continued...

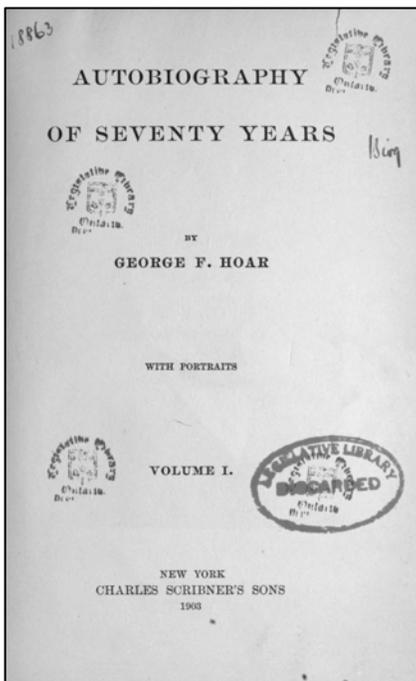
Knowing my family's history has helped to change me from a little girl in a paper Pilgrim bonnet into a young woman who aspires to take what she's learned from her ancestors and use it to help people in her community. I am proud of my heritage and the role of my family in helping to shape this country. Thus, I feel a responsibility to continue their legacy and to do my part to help this country continue to thrive, to welcome those searching for better lives, and to appreciate the freedoms gifted to me every day. Handmade Pilgrim costumes mean much more to me now than they did during my childhood; they symbolize everything that John Alden, Priscilla Mullins, and Richard Warren sacrificed so that, hundreds of years later, I could live in such a wonderful place. Their courage and the hope they had for this country has helped me to realize that I'm exactly where I belong.

IN THE NEWS (past and present)

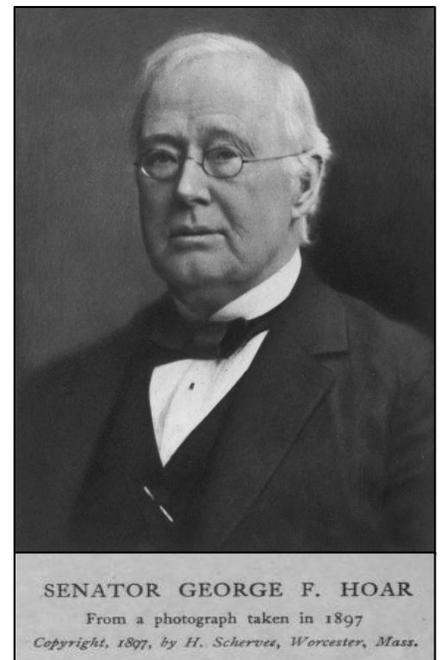
The Return of William Bradford's Mayflower History to America

"It was not until 1855 that Americans discovered that the complete manuscript of Governor Bradford's history was reposing in a London library. It was published in 1856 for the first time. How it came back to Massachusetts is told later ...

"The late **George Frisbie Hoar** [1826-1904], United States Senator from Massachusetts and a descendant of Roger Sherman, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, tells in his *Autobiography of Seventy Years* (1903) how he recovered the history by William Bradford, the second [Plymouth] governor, containing the Mayflower Compact. **Just how it got to England nobody knows**, but for more than a century it had reposed in the library of the bishop of London at Fullham palace. Senator Hoar armed himself with letters of introduction in 1896 and made a respectful demand on Dr. Temple, then bishop of London.



"Dr. Temple agreed that the precious manuscript ought to be restored to American custody, but suggested that the request should be referred to the Archbishop of Canterbury and Queen Victoria. So Senator Hoar returned to America and inspired the drafting of a formal request for the return of the manuscript in the name of the antiquarian and historical societies. Dr. Temple in the meantime become Archbishop of Canterbury and gave his assistance, with the result that **the precious manuscript now reposes in the library of the state house of Massachusetts.**" (*The Alma Enterprise*. November 18, 1921. www.newspapers.com)



Today, that facility is called the **State Library of Massachusetts**. You can view or download Bradford's manuscript and other Mayflower documents on their website: <http://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/208249>