

# OREGON PILGRIM

SPRING 2020 ISSUE

Connie Ganz, Editor

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Lake Oswego, OR 97035

Address Correction Requested



## 400~YEAR ANNIVERSARY

of the Mayflower voyage 1620~2020



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# OREGON PILGRIM

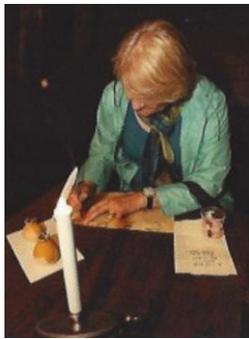
NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

Vol. 31, No. 1 – Spring 2020

## FROM THE GOVERNOR'S QUILL ~ by Beth Lambright, Governor



Hello Fellow Members (Cousins) of the Oregon Society —



Beth aboard the Mayflower II taking a quill pen lesson and signing a parchment Mayflower Compact at Congress 2014

Who would have ever imagined our whole world would be in various states of quarantine this spring? As a result, your board members of The Oregon Society of Mayflower Descendants have decided to **CANCEL our state meeting on May 2, 2020** at the Monarch Inn in Clackamas.

While this is disappointing, I want to assure you that the board is very concerned about the health of all our members and trying to stay connected with you during this time. As governor, I will continue to release monthly one-page NEWS BLASTS keeping you up to date with all that is going on in both the Oregon Society and the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. The good news is that this virus will not last forever and **we will meet again, hopefully on Saturday Nov. 21, 2020 at our new venue—the Monarch Inn in Clackamas, OR.** The fall Compact Meeting will be special — it is the **real 400th Anniversary of the Signing of the Mayflower Compact.** We will have a re-enactment of the signing by some of YOU - direct descendants of signers of the Compact! Perhaps your family, especially your children and grandchildren, would like to see their family member actually SIGN this document, just as your ancestor did.

Also, we were able to **reschedule** with Plimoth Plantation to have re-enactor Vicki Oman come to our **May 2021 Meeting** next year (even as we had hoped to see her this year). Next May will still be part of the 400<sup>th</sup> — the first year in Plymouth— and this meeting should be a highlight of our commemorating.

These times are stressful and our lives are very disrupted. There is fear about the future. I have been reminded this week about all the fear our ancestors experienced. They gave up all worldly goods and moved to a new country (Holland) and then again to an unknown world. Some left their family behind. They had no idea what lay ahead — whether the native population would be friendly or fierce, or whether their English seeds would grow and the land provide enough food. In a nutshell, they left all that was secure for a dream — the dream of a community where they could speak freely and worship freely. I am reminded of Bradford and Robinson's quote to the London financiers of their trip before they left Holland about why their group would be successful:

*We are well weaned from the delicate milk of our mother country and inured to the difficulties of a strange and hard land, which yet, in great part, we have by patience overcome. The people are, for the body of them, industrious and frugal as any company of people in the world.*

*We are knit together in a most strict and sacred bond and covenant of the Lord, of the violation of which we make great conscience, and by virtue whereof we hold ourselves straitly tied to all care of each other's good and of the whole by every one, and so mutually. Lastly, it is not with us as with other men, to whom small things can discourage or small discontents cause to wish themselves home again.*

What amazing strength of character they left us as a legacy! We too are knit together and tied to the care of each other's good. May God Himself help us to be patient, industrious, and frugal, caring for the good of each one, and not be discouraged by small discontentments as we live through these times.

Sincerely, in memory of their legacy, Beth Lambright, Governor



**General Society of Mayflower Descendants  
Update regarding the Coronavirus Pandemic  
March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Because of the Coronavirus Pandemic and guidelines received from the President of the United States, the CDC, and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, GSMD Staff will be working remotely until further notice. Our offices will be staffed with limited personnel on an intermittent, rotational and periodic basis.

Mayflower Lineage Match Requests and New Membership Application verification and approval will continue throughout this period, including Supplemental Applications. The following will be responded to on a periodic basis during the work week:

- Member Society Historian information requests;
- Member Society and Member inquiries;
- And, Sales fulfillment.

Your patience is appreciated while we observe guidelines to keep our staff safe and healthy.

Should you call our offices during this time, you will learn that telephone messages will be returned periodically. For inquiries requiring time sensitive responses, please contact us by email at: [support@themayflowersociety.org](mailto:support@themayflowersociety.org).

Urgent matters should be addressed to: [executivedirector@themayflowersociety.org](mailto:executivedirector@themayflowersociety.org).

At this time, 2020 Congress Registration is continuing as planned. For Registration questions, please contact GSMD Registration Support at (866)792-5399.

Other scheduling updates of note:

- The Plymouth 400 Procession and Opening Ceremonies on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 has been postponed. The new date under consideration is June 26<sup>th</sup>, but is not confirmed.
- Also, the America Sails event with Mayflower II in Boston Harbor has been cancelled.

We will continue to inform you of other changes we learn about as they occur.

Thank you for your understanding as we all work through the challenges presented by this historic pandemic. Let's hope it is short lived.

Please stay healthy and safe,

Susan T. Belekewicz  
Executive Director

## BOARD OF ASSISTANTS MEETING MINUTES ~ by Debra Sorensen, Secretary

The Board of Assistants (BOA) meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. on Saturday, November 23, 2019, by Governor Patrice Petersen. Others in attendance were Deputy Governor Beth Lambright, Historian Joan Hunter, Treasurer Mercy Chipman, Secretary Jennifer Kent, Captain Darwin "Bud" Hagan, Newsletter Editor Connie Ganz, Counselor James Oberholtzer, Membership Chair Francie Fessler, Melissa "Mimi" Biehn, Lois Streimer, Russell Francis, Terri Schieber, Joni Walker, and Debra Sorensen. The invocation was given by Lois Streimer. Minutes from the May 4, 2019, meetings were approved as published in the fall 2019 issue of the *Oregon Pilgrim*, with no corrections or changes.

Treasurer Mercy Chipman reported that we have **252 members**, with approximately 56 yet to pay dues for the year. She reminded the board that we are now on a calendar year, and as of October 31, 2019, we have income of \$13,621.21 and expenses of \$10,866.44. As suggested at the May meeting, she checked on using PayPal for dues and reported that there would be a 3%+ cost involved, so no change was made at this time. She also suggested we consider creating a "rainy day fund;" Ms. Lambright suggested that she and Ms. Chipman would discuss the topic further, possibly establishing a budget committee for further review. Several board members asked to have printed copies of the budget/financial statements at meetings, which Ms. Chipman agreed to bring.

Historian Joan Hunter reported that we currently have at least 15 applications at Plymouth. She said that everything is all up to date, and she is handing over materials to Russ Francis without any incomplete applications. She provided a brief review of how she handled paperwork and what to keep vs. discard, adding that she has used the silver books, pink books, and the John Howland set, and those books are being turned over to Mr. Francis. Ms. Hunter said that she believes that more often people are finding information online rather than from the books. The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) now charges \$75 per application, which she reports that people seem happy to pay. She was thanked by the entire BOA for her many years of excellent service. Incoming historian Russ Francis reported briefly on his attendance at the Denver GSMD meeting in September.

Membership chair Francie Fessler reported that 76 people were registered for today's lunch, adding that we have **247 members** (including 3 deceased). Last year's membership was 219, so we have a healthy increase. Ms. Fessler and Ms. Chipman will reconcile their numbers to find our final count. Ms. Hunter reminded us that keeping the members is very important. Regarding the membership roster, it was agreed that when someone moves or passes away we will keep them on the roster for a period of time, and they will appear below the full list marked as "deceased" or "transferred" until the year of their paid dues is completed. Ms. Lambright reported that our website is up to date thanks to Ms. Fessler, Ms. Chipman, and Ms. Hunter.

Scholarship report: As outgoing scholarship chair, Ms. Lambright reported that Lynn Paul will handle this project going forward. She reminded us that **\$1,620 is to be awarded to the 2020 scholarship recipient**, in celebration of the 400-year anniversary. Ms. Paul will be sending out reminders to eligible students. We now have 90 juniors, which is a large number for our state.

Mt. Hood Colony: Lt. Governor Mimi Biehn reported on the colony's recent meeting. Governor Petersen reported that she was at that meeting and was pleased to meet the new officers, including the new deputy governor, David Wiszneaukas. The colony has provided a membership list, and dues have been paid to the colony by Ms. Chipman.

Cascade Colony: Lt. Governor Cleve Twitchell sent a written report saying that the colony met in Medford on October 12, holding a discussion of how best to move forward with that colony. Newer members expressed interest in continuing, and it was agreed that they would have three meetings in 2020.

The next meeting will be held March 7 at the Veranda Park retirement home in Medford. Ms. Chipman reported that she has not yet received a full list of Cascade members, and when she receives that list she will be able to send them funds that are due. She believes that approximately 20 people are members of that colony.

## Board of Assistants meeting minutes, continued ...

Captain Hagan asked about the boxes of old information which were brought from Medford. Ms. Lambright reported that the boxes are stored at her home until further plans can be made. She brought a book (found in the boxes) which covers history and membership of the Oregon Mayflower organization as of 1929, which was the beginning of our chapter, up to 1996. Ms. Fessler is taking the book to her home for safekeeping, and the BOA discussed updating and using it for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2028.

Governor Petersen reported that nominees for Assistant Governor General (AGG) and Deputy Governor General (DGG) will be elected on the last day of GSMD Congress in 2020. Bylaws say that the position of DGG shall be offered to immediate past governor (Patrice Petersen) and position of AGG to the incoming governor (Beth Lambright). Both said they would accept the nominations. Terry Schieber will continue as DGG until very last day of congress in 2020.

Ms. Lambright mentioned two important projects:

- Governor Petersen's project is "Oregon Pioneer Stories" – Mayflower members who have ancestors who are Oregon pioneers. A booklet has been created and which is available on the member section of our website. Plans are being made to take this booklet to Congress.
- The second project, *The Patriot to Passenger Project*, which can be found on the GSMD site, is for Mayflower members who have a Revolutionary War patriot in their Mayflower line. To learn more about this, visit <https://www.themayflowersociety.org/blog/item/303-the-patriot-to-passenger-project>



Ms. Lambright made a motion, seconded by Ms. Chipman: I move the Board of Assistants enter into a contract with Plimoth Plantation to bring re-enactor Vicki Oman to Oregon from April 29 thru May 3, 2020, to include school presentations and a program for our spring state meeting.

Ms. Lambright then explained more about the proposal, which she says is a gift for Oregon. In celebration of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Mayflower, Ms. Oman is also being hosted by the Washington Mayflower society. The Corvallis School District has approved funds to pay a portion of the costs (\$1,300). For our meeting, she will act as Priscilla Mullens. Total cost \$2,310 for OSMD, plus an amount to be paid by schools. Ms. Lambright said that Ms. Oman can play one of several pilgrim women, with Priscilla Mullens being suggested as an option for us. Discussion concerning having a larger luncheon and inviting other organizations such as DAR and OHS followed. It was suggested that \$5 be added to the lunch cost for attendees who are not Mayflower members. Ms. Lambright suggested that the contract of \$3,660 be signed, with one-half of the amount to be paid with signing and the final amount to be paid in April 2020, with payment to come from the general fund. The MOTION was approved by all. Ms. Lambright will pursue venue options and check back with the BOA when she has more information. We need to settle on a spot for the meeting, if we don't use Hayden's due to space restrictions.

Governor Petersen announced that the next meeting of OSMD will be on May 2, 2020, and she thanked BOA members for their help during her tenure as governor. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

**[Editor's Note: May 2 MEETING CANCELLED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS]**

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Williams Sorensen, Secretary



## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES ~ by Debra Sorensen, Secretary

The General Meeting of The Oregon Society of Mayflower Descendants was called to order on Saturday, November 23, 2019, at 12:08 p.m. by Governor Patrice Petersen. The invocation was led by Lois Streimer, Elder. Captain Bud Hagan led members in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the reading of the Mayflower Compact. Terri Schieber led the reading of the Mayflower Compact.



Attendees introduced themselves, as well as their guests. Approximately 80 people were in attendance. Historian Joan Hunter gave the Ancestral Roll Call, and candles were lit for each Mayflower family. Lunch was enjoyed by all, with the raffle following.

Scholarship Chair Beth Lambright reported that the recipient will receive \$1,620 when the award is made in May 2020, and she hopes we will be able to continue awarding that amount in the future. She added that Lynn Paul will handle scholarships going forward.

Outgoing Governor Petersen talked about Oregon Mayflower members who also have Oregon Trail ancestors, with 27 members in that group. A booklet of memories has been created and edited by Connie Ganz, and it can be found on the OSMD website, members only section. A few of those people spoke about their ancestors:

- Debbie Ellis spoke about her great-great grandfather, Capt. John Metzger
- Francie Fessler told of her ancestor on paternal side, Joseph Manning and Caroline Aubert; she also brought a doll bed which came in the wagon train
- Susan Foust talked about her maternal grandmother, Bertha Slater Smith, who was a teacher, poet, and active community member
- Harriet Lescher told us about her great-grandmother, Martha Scoggin Comstock, who came from Missouri with her family
- Joni Walker talked her ancestors who crossed the Oregon trail in 1852 and 1859, traveling in a prairie schooner going about 11 miles a day

Outgoing Governor Patrice Petersen extended her thanks to all members, adding that she had a wonderful time working with the talented and distinguished members of this group. She gave special thanks to several current and former board members, including:

- Cleve Twitchell, past governor, editor of the newsletter for many years, and leader of the Cascade Colony in Medford
- Terri Schieber, past governor, who established the Mt Hood Colony, and who will hold the position of DGG thru 2020
- Terry Maloney, past Mt. Hood Colony lieutenant governor
- Francie Fessler, membership chair, who receives payments for meetings
- Connie Ganz, newsletter editor, professional journalist and author
- Beth Lambright, incoming governor, former deputy Governor, scholarship chair, juniors chair – Governor Petersen pointed out that Deputy Governor Lambright was always willing to help with administrative tasks and other duties as needed
- Richard Bellingham, former elder
- Treasurer Mercy Chipman, and past treasurer, Jane Slack, who stepped in when the treasurer position became vacant
- Secretary Jennifer Kent, who handled our minutes and compiled the annual report in a timely manner
- James Oberholtzer, who will stay on as counselor to the organization, which is helpful due to his background in business and tax law, trusts, and real estate
- Captain Bud Hagen, who does so much behind-the-scenes work, including storing our flags, retrieving boxes of materials from Medford, and other tasks
- Historian Joan Hunter, served for several years and who is now retiring, and who was presented with the GSMD award in honor of her outstanding work as historian. Ms. Hunter (pictured above) was presented with a Certificate of Commendation and a lovely pin. We have a 12% increase in Oregon membership, putting our state in top 10 in the US states, thanks to Ms. Hunter.



Governor Petersen then called for the election and installation of new OSMD officers. :

- Governor, Beth Lambright
- Deputy Governor, Joni Walker
- Elder, Lois Streimer
- Secretary, Debra Sorensen
- Treasurer, Mercy Chipman
- Historian, Russell Francis
- Counselor, James Oberholtzer
- Captain, Darwin “Bud” Hagan



**Pictured L to R:** New OSMD officers Beth Lambright, Joni Walker, Debra Sorensen, and Lois Streimer.

## General Meeting Minutes, continued ...

Governor Lambright gave her acceptance speech, briefly describing what her Mayflower ancestry means to her. She recalled a Thanksgiving school assembly as a child, growing up in New England, and visits to Plymouth. She learned about her Mayflower ancestry thru her father's line, feeling that "their story is my story, too." Governor Lambright started working on her family history in her 20s, pre-internet, filling in as she was able to find out more details. She admired how our ancestors dealt with fear, coming to a land with no amenities, not knowing what to expect, and unsure if they would ever see their families again. They landed well outside the king's charter, rather than in the expected Virginia. Of the 51 people who survived the winter, more were children than adults, including nine orphans who were taken in by other families. She emphasized **remembering**, not forgetting what our forefathers did so that we could survive.

Governor Lambright announced the next meeting of the OSMD on May 2, 2020, and she told us about our speaker for that meeting, re-enactor Vicki Oman, a presenter from Plimoth Plantation, will be joining us in celebration of the 400th anniversary year. Ms. Oman will hold presentations for schools in the area, as well as our meeting. She is also being hosted by the Washington Mayflower organization while on the West Coast. **EDITOR'S NOTE: MAY 2 MEETING CANCELLED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS**

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Williams Sorensen, Secretary

**Pictured at right:** Jasmine Roderick made these beautiful Mayflower cookies and handed them out to luncheon guests at the November 2019 Compact Day meeting. Jasmine was dressed in period costume, which she has also donned at Corvallis area Mayflower events held by former Juniors Chairman Beth Lambright. Thanks, Jasmine, for this tasty treat!



## MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

### Rhonda Hammari (Engberg) Stone

Born in Portland on Jan. 19, 1952, Rhonda Hammari Engberg Stone received her promotion to Heaven Oct. 10, 2019. She fought a year-long battle with ovarian cancer and thanks to the love and support of her family and the caring staff of Hospice Care of the Northwest, Rhonda stayed in her home until the end of her time on earth. She was laid to rest Oct. 14, 2019 in Gibson Cemetery located in Eagle Creek.

Rhonda was preceded in death by her daughter, Amy Jensen, whose own battle with brain cancer united her with Jesus in 2014. Rhonda missed Amy and they are now joyfully reunited in Heaven. Rhonda is survived by her husband, Matthew; mother, Florence Engberg; son, Robert Williams; stepdaughter, Keri Steed (Jeb); son-in-law, Jeff Jensen; seven grandchildren; and, a large extended family. Rhonda is waiting in Heaven to be joined with Christian family and friends as God's timing sees fit. "See you in Heaven" were some of Rhonda's last earthly words. Matt is forever grateful to be blessed with 35 years of marriage to Rhonda, an Angel that God provided him ...

Remembrances to the Caples House Museum, P.O. Box 263 Columbia City, OR 97018-0263 or Thru the Bible Radio: [ttb.org](http://ttb.org).

([www.oregonlive.com/obits](http://www.oregonlive.com/obits). Published in *The Oregonian* from Oct. 15 to Oct. 16, 2019)

### Margaret Jewell (Skillings) Merservey

Longtime Klamath Falls resident Margaret Jewell Meservey, née Skillings, 85, passed away on February 15, 2019, in Webster, Texas. Her passing was after 5 plus years of suffering with Alzheimer's disease. She was cremated and a service was held on Saturday, February 23, 2019, at 2:00 PM CST. Jeter Memorial Funeral Home of Friendswood, Texas handled the service.

Margaret was born on July 11, 1933, in Farmington, Maine, to Charles Winthrop Skillings and Mary Cordelia (Pierce) Skillings. Margaret was the proverbial farmer's daughter. She graduated from Strong High School in 1952 from a class size of 9. After high school, Margaret joined the USAF.

During her service as a WAF, she was stationed at Edwards AFB, California. One day she passed a gentleman on base who tickled her fancy ... Ralph Meservey. Margaret and Ralph were married in Carson City, Nevada on July 3, 1958.

In retirement Margaret and Ralph travelled around the "lower 48" in their RV, visiting with friends and family along the way. Any donations you wish to make, please do so to the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation. <https://www.alzinfo.org>

## Nancy (Smith) Leroux Bickler

Nancy passed away peacefully in a respite home in Hermiston, Oregon, on October 16, 2019, with her son and his wife nearby. It was the end of a short but hard battle lost to cancer. Nancy Margaret Smith was born August 2, 1928, in Portland, Oregon, the only child of Mariory (McFarlane) and Harrison Standish Smith. Nancy graduated from Grant High School and went on to attend the University of Oregon, where she earned both bachelor's and master's degrees.

Nancy's teaching career began in 1951 in Philomath High School, where she taught math and English ... In 1959 she married Lester A. Leroux, and they moved to Boardman, Oregon, where they both taught at Riverside High School. While teaching in Boardman, she was the recipient of the Golden Apple award.

Nancy and Lester had two children, Leonille Ann (Leanne) and Michael Julien Leroux. Lester died in 1984. Nancy continued teaching mathematics until her retirement in 1993, a total of 42 years teaching. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the General Society of Mayflower Descendants ... In 1997, Nancy married Gordon V. Bickler, DMD, and moved to Salem, Ore ... Gordon died in 2015 ... Nancy decided to move closer to family and once again found herself in Eastern Oregon, living in Hermiston ... Mass of Christian Burial was held at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church in Hermiston. (eastoregonian.com)

## TREASURER'S REPORT ~ by Mercy Chipman

Our checking balance as of December 31, 2019, was \$28,825. We ended the year with a \$3,700 gain; however, we still have not received the General Society of Mayflower Descendants dues invoice.

### HAS YOUR EMAIL OR MAILING ADDRESS CHANGED?

**Please send updated info to [mercychip@yahoo.com](mailto:mercychip@yahoo.com)**



#### GENERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS (national)

Deputy Governor General: Terri Schieber  
Assistant Governor General:  
Patricia Sproul Petersen

#### OREGON STATE OFFICERS

Governor.....Beth Lambright  
Deputy Governor.....Joni Walker  
Secretary.....Debra Sorensen  
Treasurer..... Mercy Chipman  
Historian/Applications.....Russ Francis  
Elder.....Lois Streimer  
Counselor..... James Oberholtzer  
Captain.....Darwin (Bud) Hagan  
Membership.....Francie Fessler  
Newsletter Editor.....Connie Ganz

#### MT. HOOD COLONY OFFICERS

Lt. Governor.....Mimi Biehn  
Deputy Governor.....David Wiszneaukas  
Secretary.....Joni Walker  
Treasurer.....Debbie Ketchum  
Captain.....Bud Hagan  
Historian.....Sue Glen  
Elder.....Lois Streimer

#### CASCADE COLONY OFFICERS

Deputy Governor.....Cleve Twitchell  
Treasurer.....Helen Schreiner

**Cascade Colony, based in Medford, is in the process of reorganizing and hopes to resume meeting this summer. Mt. Hood Colony's spring 2020 meeting was cancelled to due Coronavirus concerns.**

**BOARD OF ASSISTANTS:** The above-listed officers plus Terry Maloney, Jane Slack, and Cleve Twitchell.

## HISTORIAN'S REPORT ~ by Russ Francis

I would like to introduce myself as your new Oregon Society of Mayflower Descendants (OSMD) historian. I became fascinated with genealogy in 2015 when I discovered a notebook full of documents and photos of our family history. I'd heard rumors growing up that our family had a Mayflower connection, but it wasn't until I found a Soule Kindred newsletter published in 1974 that I discovered my actual lineage to George Soule. Needless to say, I was hooked. Since then I've taken the Boston University Genealogical Research Program and have become the family historian. In addition to George Soule, I'm a descendant of Thomas Rogers, John Alden, and Peter Brown. I'm looking forward to being your new historian and expect I still have a lot to learn.

Currently, we have over 15 applications and supplementals pending approval at Plymouth. With the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary fast approaching, I expect many more will be interested in joining the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

I am pleased to report the following new members who have joined the OSMD since our last newsletter:

### Applications Approved

**Andrea Charlotte Golden** OR# 1105  
*11<sup>th</sup> generation from William Bradford*

**Joanne Susan McCann** OR# 1115  
*11<sup>th</sup> generation from Francis Cooke*

**Denee Fenton** OR# 1106  
*11<sup>th</sup> generation from John Howland*

**Susan Jane Thompson** OR# 1116  
*13<sup>th</sup> generation from William Brewster*

**Linda Eileen Freeman** OR# 1107  
*12<sup>th</sup> generation from Richard Warren*

### Supplementals Approved

**Susan Marie Griffin** OR# 1110  
*13<sup>th</sup> generation from Elizabeth Tilley*

**Barry Ross Cook**  
*11<sup>th</sup> generation from Stephen Hopkins*

**May Lou Rudinsky** OR# 1111  
*11<sup>th</sup> generation from Henry Samson*

### Reinstatements

**Catherine Blosser** OR# 421

**Christine DeVries** OR# 1112  
*13<sup>th</sup> generation from Thomas Rogers*

### Transfers In

**Angela Medina** OR# 1113  
*13<sup>th</sup> generation from Stephen Hopkins*

**Susan Hart** OR# 1108  
**Jeffrey Record** OR# 1109

**James Eugene Kuoni** OR# 1114  
*11<sup>th</sup> generation from Francis Cooke*

### Transfers Out

**David Kingsella** OR# 1021



# 2020 Scholarship Winner

## Congratulations to 2020 scholarship winner Marissa Van Sickle!

Marissa is a senior at North Clackamas Christian School and lives in Oregon City. Her junior membership is through her grandmother, Lois Streimer, current elder of the OSMD.

Special prize of **\$1620** in celebration of the Mayflower voyage 400-year anniversary

### What My Mayflower Ancestry Means to Me



Without the Mayflower, my family history would lack a lot of the people who make it unique. It enabled four hundred years of ancestors whose lives can still have an impact on my decisions today. From Priscilla Alden to Deborah Sampson to my own grandmother, I can look to the women who came before me for guidance.

Though I am related to several passengers from the Mayflower on both the maternal and paternal sides of my family, Priscilla Alden stands out the most. For reasons unknown to us now, she chose to travel with her parents and brother to the New World instead of staying with her other brother and sister in England. When her family died that first brutal winter, she stayed in the New World instead of returning to what many would have considered home back across the sea. For two years, she survived alone before she chose to be married. Her marriage does not have a lot of historical documentation, but Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem *The Courtship of Miles Standish* immortalizes the story in legend. Her thoughts throughout this journey are only a matter of speculation now, but I see her as a woman who refused to give up. History paints her as strong and legend paints her as confident, two factors that together say adventurous to me. She traveled to the New World in search of adventure beyond what her siblings in England would find, and I believe she found it. As I make my plans for college, my adventure is less pioneering than hers, but I hope I inherited some of the same spirit.

Priscilla Alden's refusal to give up continues down the family line to the Revolutionary War. Deborah Sampson, my ancestress and Priscilla's great-great-great-granddaughter, was willing to endure the horrors of war to see her country become free. She enlisted twice, under the disguises of Timothy Thayer and Robert Shirliffe. She was recognized in the first disguise, but her second attempt landed her in an elite military unit. Almost two years and two musket balls later, she received an honorable discharge. The determination that would drive a girl to go to battle and dig bullets out of her own leg is admirable, especially in that time period. She considered her country to be one worth fighting for, and would not let anyone stand in her way. In my own life, I hope to defend my values and my country in the same way. I will count myself lucky if I can pursue this goal with even half of her tenacity.

Down the family tree from both, we come to my grandmother. She puts her family first in her life in everything she does. I have many memories of summer afternoons at her house, surrounded by boxes of photos of people I've never known, but who are part of my family somehow. I remember looking at each one and hearing the stories behind the faces. For the people she didn't know, Grandma spent time and energy to discover every connection and history. These memories that she restored immortalize the people and their actions so that no one is lost to time. I hope I can value my own family as much as she taught me, and that I can do my part in keeping memories alive.

The lives of these women in history helped shape the birth of our great country. The women who came after helped shape the birth of my family. As I move to this next chapter in my life, I hope to encompass part of them in every aspect of my life. I want to study languages and use them to travel to places new and unknown, just like Priscilla Alden. I want to protect my values and goals along the way, and defend them with the determination of Deborah Sampson. And I want to collect the stories of each person I meet along the way and remember them as they lived, like my grandma. I would not be the person I am today without the events that the Mayflower set in motion.