

THE PRAIRIE SCHOONER
NEWSLETTER
OF
THE SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER
DESCENDANTS
IN THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA



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THE HIGHLIGHTS

Nominations for next year's Officer Positions now being taken

Next year we will be voting on members to fill the Officers positions. If you are interested in running for an office please contact Governor Sandy Roe at smroe73@gmail.com

Officer positions are a three-year appointment.

Officers manage the business of the meetings and the Society. Officers and Committee members encourage and promote the History of the Pilgrims through research and education.

If you would like to join a committee to learn more about your Society, places are available as well (one-year appointment). Contact Sandy Roe at smroe73@gmail.com

Officer Positions

Governor

Deputy Governor

Treasurer

Secretary

Finance

Historian

Assistant Historian

Deputy Governor General (DGG)

Assistant Governor General (AGG)

Committees

Education

Junior Education

Newsletter

Finance

Pilmoth Patuxet Museums Video Series

Plimoth Patuxet Museums received a grant from the LILLY Endowment Inc (of the Lilly Corporation) the complex worldviews and beliefs that were central to the people who lived, traded, worked and worshipped along the historic shores of change in Massachusetts during the 17th Century. The name of the Series is "The Light Here Kindled" These films are just now being offered for use by all of us.

"The Light Here Kindled" is divided into four sections, each contains 3-4 films. For example, sections "Life Passages" and "Communities of Faith" give an overview of the Pilgrim experience through the story of Mayflower passenger Stephen Hopkins and his family.

HOW TO VIEW THEM? Simply go to the YouTube Channel of Plimoth Patuxet Museums (@PlimothPatuxetMuseums). If you go directly to YouTube, you can put "Plimoth Patuxet Museums" in the Search Bar at the top and you will be taken to their channel. It will ask you if you would like to subscribe—which is free!

Off the Shelf

The Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County is located in the Hjemkomst Center, Moorhead, MN. On a recent visit I was browsing the gift shop when I came across a book whose title drew my attention. "History Smasher The Mayflower" by Kate Messner, illustrations by Dylan Meconis. The book's synopsis: *"In 1620, the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock and made friends with Wampanoag people who gave them corn. RIGHT?"*

WRONG! It was months before the Pilgrims met any Wampanoag people, and nobody gave anybody corn that day. Did you know that the pilgrims didn't go straight from England to Plymouth? No, they made a stop along the way—and almost stayed forever! Did you know there was a second ship, called the Speedwell, that was too leaky to make the trip? No joke. And just wait until you learn the truth about Plymouth Rock. Through illustrations, graphic panels, photographs, sidebars, and more, acclaimed author Kate Messner smashes history by exploring the little-known details behind the legends of the Mayflower and the first Thanksgiving."

As far as I can tell this information is historically correct, (the good and the bad), stating primary and secondary sources. It says it is written for ages 8-12 years but I found it to be interesting for older readers as well. Let me know what you think.

Submitted by Sandy Roe, Governor.
smroe73@gmail.com.

More on YouTube

Are you watching Football this Holiday Season? Grab a piece of pie during Half Time and switch on YOUTUBE. The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) has fun, interesting, and informative clips about the Pilgrims and Plymouth. "Partakers of Our Plenty, The First Thanksgiving" would be a good start. Imagine Plymouth as your ancestors lived there!

Story Time

Follow these YouTube links to related stories being read aloud.

Squanto's Journey- Story of the First Thanksgiving by Joseph Bruchac and Greg Shed

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgdl84xaQVY>

Three Young Pilgrims

by Cheryl Harness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UV08n4QFGYw>

Pilgrim Children on the Mayflower

by Ida DeLage

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUIqUGG_htE

The First Thanksgiving

by Linda Hayward

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KrrQMj9dfPk>

Mayflower Society Shop

The Holiday Season is coming! If you are looking for different and unique gifts for that hard-to-buy-for person, look at the Mayflower Society Shop at TheMayflowerSociety.org. The shop has dozens of gifts for every interest and age.

FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK

Thanksgiving 2025

Next year Americans will celebrate the 250 Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This document, along with the Bill of Rights, set the foundational ideas for American governance, emphasizing self-rule and the protection of individual rights. 156 years before this signing, another document was signed. One that would change the course of history. Because the Mayflower Pilgrims were settling in a location where no one was in charge, they saw the need to have a written agreement. This agreement, later known as the Mayflower Compact, set forth a promise that the Pilgrims would work together and follow laws they set for themselves. They elected a governor and created a government, of the people, by the people, and for the people. The Compact emphasizes self-rule and the protection of individual rights such as freedom of Religion and the press and the right to peacefully assemble. The Compact provided for the common defense and promoted the general wellbeing of all. All men were considered equal and as they signed the Compact, the men promised to support and follow these ideals.

The Mayflower Pilgrims were the first Englishmen to permit Widows to inherit their husband's land and personal property. They also provided for orphaned children.

The Mayflower Pilgrims and the Wampanoags proved that people from different backgrounds and cultures could come together peacefully to support each other.

Why we support our Mayflower Society

78 years ago, 31 Charter members and guests gathered together to organize our ND Mayflower Society.

Their goals were the same as ours are today.

- Preserve and maintain the highest genealogical standards proving the lineal descent from the 1620 Mayflower Pilgrims.
- Engage and promote new Pilgrim research and publications.
- Instill a passion for history and awareness of the Mayflower Compact and the Pilgrim story through Education.
- And to protect, preserve, and interpret our historic properties.

Happy Thanksgiving to you, friends and family.

Sandy Roe, North Dakota Society
Governor

THE "FIRST" THANKSGIVING

Often there is some confusion about "The First Thanksgiving". Hundreds of years before the arrival of the Pilgrims on the Mayflower, humans around the globe had been giving thanks through gatherings and celebrations for bountiful harvests. In 1621 the Mayflower Pilgrims gave thanks for their harvest with a celebration. They invited their neighbors, the Wampanoags, to thank them for their help throughout the year. Today, many of the traditions passed down by the Pilgrims of holding celebrations and gatherings with family and friends hold true. It was not until years later that this gathering was termed "The FIRST Thanksgiving" by historians.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Dakota

78th Annual Meeting

October 5, 2025

Governor Sandy Roe welcomed everyone to the meeting at 1:00pm at the State Heritage Museum in Bismarck. She thanked Pete Conlin, a new member, for arranging lunch. And Mary Verlinde for arranging the room and set up.

Following Lunch the meeting was called to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Greetings included mention of America 250 and the role the Mayflower Compact had in forming the new government.

Roll Call of Pilgrim/Passengers was held. Ancestors included Brown, P. Mullins, W. Mullins,

Alden, E. Fuller, Chilton, Cooke, Warren, Rogers, Brewster, Billing, Easton, Bradford, Soule, Samson, Stanish, Howland, Tilley.

The Secretary's Report

The Secretary's minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report

There are 62 Life members who we pay \$35 each to Plymouth. We do ask them to donate this amount. Joy Grinnell moved to pay the usual bills. Cindy Huffman seconded and the motion was approved. The audit committee met and found the books to be in order.

Technology Chair's Report

Website: NDMayflower.org

Alison Harries presented a detailed slide show on the website.

DGG's Report

DGG Marti Bobertz presented on the National Meeting held in September 2025 in San Antonio, TX. (she did not attend in person)

Day one was tours of the area. Day two was the business meeting, awards, appointment of a new Member At Large, Bylaw updates including allowing electronic meetings will be voted on next year. Voting only happens in the 3rd year. That meeting will be in Plymouth in 2026. The first weekend after Labor Day.

The Historian's Report

Cindy Huffman said four applications and one supplemental were done. Two transfers from other states. Two more supplementals in process. Mary Verlinde did resign as Assistant Historian.

Education Report

Sandy Roe reported presenting to a 1st grade class, attended the Heritage workshop in Fargo, and attended a Zoom meeting hosted by the General Society about ideas and education.

Juniors Report

We have 44 junior members. Many will age out in the next few years. Very few new Juniors are enrolled. Junior membership costs a one time fee of \$15. Juniors are age 0-25. At age 18 they may join as adult members.

Some suggestions include a newsletter for kids, social media, website to be geared to children.

Newsletter

Rachel Roe-Longtine asked for family pictures from Thanksgiving. Even old pictures when members were children would be fun to see.

Unfinished Business

Bylaws changes: Marti Bobertz reported that the changes were sent out to members. The changes had to do with reinstating former members, notice to dropped member for detrimental reasons, and no political campaigning as a society or officer.

Marti moved to accept the new wording, Alison Harries seconded, motion was approved.

New Business

Several ideas were presented as ways to use money received from Connie Norheim. A committee will be set up to discuss these and others. Joy Grinnell volunteered to be on the committee. Others are needed.

Dianne Billey moved to send \$1,000 to the Meeting House fund for a pew as a named donation. Mary Verlinde. seconded. The motion was approved.

Bonding

Joy Grinnell. move we spend \$75 to Bond the officers, Philip LaQua seconded. Motion approved.

Tax Certificate

Sandy Roe moved to spend about \$45 to get the number (certificate) from the state. Joy Grinnell seconded and it was approved.

Captain position is open due to a resignation. Kristin McDonald was elected to complete the term.

Next year will be an election year. Please consider accepting a nomination for officer and/or committee.

Adjournment

Next year's date October 4, 2026 in Fargo.

Program was Mayflower Trivia

MEET PILGRIM **THOMAS ROGERS**

Thomas Rogers and his son Joseph, age about 17, were passengers on the Mayflower.

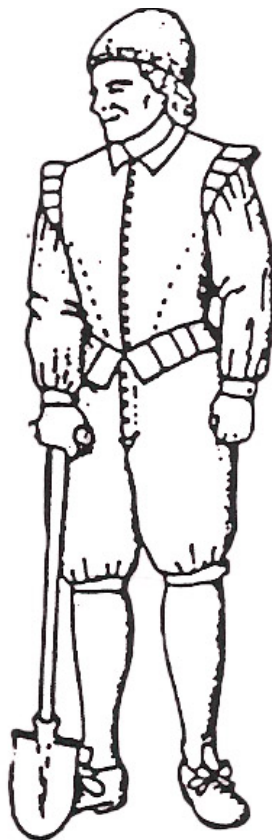
Thomas was born at Watford, Northampton, England, circa 1572, the son of William and Eleanor (---) Rogers. He died at Plymouth, in the general sickness of the first winter of 1620/21. Thomas married at Watford, 24 October 1597, Alice Cosford. Alice was baptized at Watford, 10 May 1573, the daughter of George and Margaret (---) Cosford. It is likely that she died in Leiden as there is no evidence that she emigrated to Plymouth. The last mention of her is in the 1622 poll tax at Leiden where she is mentioned with children, Elizabeth, Margaret and John Rogers, who were all in a house for "poor people." In the same household is found Elizabeth Turner whose father and two brothers were passengers, with all three dying the first winter. Interesting to note that Elizabeth Turner also came over from Leiden so it is likely she came over with the Rogers children. It is likely that when the Rogers children came over from Leiden, their mother was then deceased.

Thomas and his family removed to Leiden

by 1617 when he purchased a house there. The family made the choice that only Thomas and son Joseph would travel on the Mayflower; when they were settled, Alice and the remaining children would come over. Unfortunately, with Thomas' death just a few months later, there was no home for them to go to.

Thomas was a signer of the Mayflower Compact, while the ship was at the Provincetown Harbor, on 11 November 1620. In the 1623 land division, Joseph Rogers received two acres, one for himself and another for his father. In the 1627 cattle division, Joseph is in the group headed by William Bradford. It is likely that when his father died that first winter, Bradford took him in.

In 1636, Joseph Rogers operated a ferry over Jones River, near his dwelling house and he charged one penny per person. In 1639, Joseph is called "of Duxbury" when he was named as a surveyor of highways; at the same court, his brother John became a freeman. The brothers were sometimes mentioned together, as in 1640 when they were granted 50 acres. In 1647, Joseph was appointed Lieutenant in Eastham, "to exercise their men in armes."



Bradford's history states that Thomas Rogers' other children came over, married and had many children. John Rogers has been identified, which means Elizabeth and Margaret Rogers likely came over with their brother, perhaps around 1629/30 (when some of the remaining family members in Leiden were brought over), however they have not yet been identified in Plymouth.

Children of Thomas and Alice Rogers:
(baptized at Watford)

Thomas Rogers, baptized 24 March 1598/99; buried at Watford 27 May 1599.

[possibly] Richard Rogers, baptized 12 March 1599/1600; buried at Watford 4 April 1600.

Joseph Rogers, baptized 23 January 1602/03; died at Eastham, between 2 January and 15 January 1677/78; married before 16 August 1633, wife unknown; his 1678 will mentions wife Hannah; he had eight children: Sarah, Joseph, Thomas, Elizabeth, John, Mary, James and Hannah Rogers.

John Rogers, baptized 6 April 1606; died at Duxbury, between 26 August 1691 and 20 September 1692; married at Plymouth, 16 April 1639, Anna Churchman; they had four children: John, (H)anna, Abigail and Elizabeth Rogers. John came over from Leiden and first shows up in Plymouth in the 1633 tax list.

Elizabeth Rogers, baptized 26 Dec 1609; no further record. Elizabeth came over from Leiden; and it has been suggested that she may have married Samuel Eddy [who had many children] but further investigation is needed.

Margaret Rogers, baptized 30 May 1613; no further record. Margaret came over from Leiden and likely married and had children.

Sources

Mayflower Families Through Five Generations, Thomas Rogers, vol. 19, by Peggy M. Baker; Plymouth, 2013, 2nd ed.

Mayflower Passenger References, (from contemporary records and scholarly journals), by Susan E. Roser. 2011. pp. 318-27.

Descendants are invited to join the Thomas Rogers Society.

Junior Members



Cousin Crew: Eaton/Billington cousins

Check out our Society website for more pictures and information about the ND Society at: ndmayflower.org

We also have a private Facebook page: North Dakota Mayflower Society

Our purpose as North Dakota Society members is to continue this legacy through purpose, preservation of historical facts, and the education of others so our descendants understand and appreciate the sacrifices their ancestors made to ensure basic freedoms. Together as a Society, we have the resources to accomplish these goals.

HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR NEWSLETTER

Become involved by emailing newsletter editor Rachel Roe-Longtine at reroe20@gmail.com

► Pictures

- How about those Thanksgiving dinner pictures of the family around the table?
- Get all of the cousins together for a Junior Membership photo

► Family activities or travels relating to the Mayflower, Plymouth, the Pilgrims

► Interesting books or information about the Mayflower, Pilgrims, Plymouth you have read about and wish to share

► If you know of someone who does not receive email, please let the newsletter editor, Rachel Roe-Longtine, know. We will send out a hard copy of the Newsletter and meeting notices. Rachel can be reached at reroe20@gmail.com.