



# Mayflower Chronicles

Volume I, Issue I

## Colony Officers

### *Lt Governor*

Richard C Saunders Jr.  
13 Thompson Avenue  
Glen Falls, NY 12801-2220

### *1st Dep. Lt Gov.*

James Rogers

### *2nd Dep. Lt. Gov*

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Priscilla S Davis

### *Treasurer*

Betty-Jean Haner

### *Captain*

Jacqueline Chamberlain  
Robert Clemons

### *Historian*

Robert M. Haff

### *Elder*

Arthur F. Young Jr

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### *Editor*

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**Compact Day Meeting**  
**Saturday November 6, 2010**  
**Normanside Country Club, Delmar, NY**  
**Reception and Cash Bar 12:30 pm      Luncheon 1:00 PM**

## Lt. Governor's Message

I sincerely hope all of our members had a great summer, fun, family, and time for genealogical research on the rainy days. My wife, Lynn, keeps my nose to the grindstone searching for her Mayflower ancestor, but so far, no luck.

Perhaps I will receive a few tips from our Historian General, Paul Bumpus, who will join is as the speaker at our November meeting presenting "Mayflower Lineages: Connecting the Generations". In 2008 Paul was elected at the 38<sup>th</sup> Triennial Congress as the Historian General for the General Society and prior to that he was State Historian for the Hawaiian Society. We heartily welcome our cousin.

Our Past Lt. Gov. Bette Bradway has agreed to chair the nominations committee for our upcoming (May 2011) Albany Colony elections. Some positions must be filled so this is an excellent time for those members who may be interested in serving to jump on board.

So, here we are, autumn in the air, Compact Day meeting just around the corner, and next year (2011) is the Thirty-ninth Triennial Congress of the General Society. Although more information will come in your Mayflower Quarterly in the Spring, we will also announce this again at our May meeting. Members may attend as delegates, attending meetings, and assisting in the business of the society, or merely as guests, partaking in the sights and tours available.

I hope many of you will make the meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Richard C Saunders Jr

## NEXT MEETING

Future dates May 7, 2011, November 5, 2011

### May 1, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The Spring Meeting of the Albany Colony, SOMD, held at the Normanside Country Club, Delmar NY, was called to order by Lt. Gov. Saunders at 1 PM.

The Invocation was given by Elder Arthur F. Young, Jr., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America led by Co-Captain Robert Clemons.

Officers present were introduced by Lt. Gov. Saunders: James Rogers, 1<sup>st</sup> Dep. Lt. Governor; David Morton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dep. Lt. Gov.; Priscilla Davis, Secretary; Robert Clemons, Co-Captain; Robert Haff, Historian; Arthur Young, Jr., Elder; Eleanor Morris, Archivist; and Joyce Musco, Editor. (Absent - Betty-Jean Haner, Treasurer; Jacqueline Chamberlain, Co-Captain)

**New members** present were introduced: Myrtle Hadley (Joan Hurst), Sheila LaVancha (John Tilley), and Donald Collins (William White). Self-introductions made by members included name, location, and ancestor. Members & guests present - 54

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the November 2009 meeting were approved as printed in the Chronicles. Motion made by Richard Saunders, Sr. and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Arthur Young. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The report was distributed by Lt. Gov. Saunders, due to the absence of Treasurer Betty-Jean Haner, and accepted as printed. Motion made by Arthur Young and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard Saunders, Sr. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports: Historian:** Bob Haff provided a six-month report for the Colony on new members, transfers, approved supplements, deaths, and drops for a total membership of 191, as of 4/2/2010. His report was approved as printed in the Chronicles. Motion made by David Morton and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard Saunders, Sr. Motion carried.

**Chronicles:** The next featured ancestor will be "William Bradford" followed by "William Brewster". Descendents, please submit information to our editor, Joyce Musco.

**Website:** Karl Dannel asked if there are any changes to be made to the site at this time.

**Old Business:** The Albany Colony Membership Roster/Yearbook is still being compiled. An electronic version will be published and emailed as a pdf file.

**New Business:** Eleanor Morris asked for more information to be provided that can be put up on the website. Out of 191 members, approximately 70 do have email addresses.

### ROLL CALL of Ancestors:

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John Alden - 2  
 Isaac Allerton - 5  
 John Billington - 0  
 William Bradford - 2  
 William Brewster - 10  
 Peter Brown - 1  
 James Chilton - 2  
 Francis Cooke - 2  
 Edward Doty - 2  
 Frances Eaton - 1  
 Moses Fletcher - 0  
 Edward Fuller - 0  
 Samuel Fuller - 0  
 Stephen Hopkins - 6  
 John Howland - 11  
 Richard More - 0  
 William Mullins - 1  
 Degory Priest - 1  
 Thomas Rogers - 0  
 Henry Samson - 0  
 George Soule - 2  
 Miles Standish - 0  
 John Tilley - 11  
 Richard Warren - 4  
 William White - 3  
 Edward Winslow - 0  
 Mary (Norria) Allerton - 0  
 Elizabeth (Fisher) Hopkins - 1  
 Joan (Hurst) Tilley - 11

John Howland / John Tilley / Joan Hurst Tilley descendents had the greatest representation - 11

Future meeting dates set:

November 6, 2010, May 7 2011, November 5, 2011

### Program: "Voices from the Past"

presented by Mr. Philip Caruso, a professional photographer for Hollywood movies and a collector of antique phonographs. He displayed and played phonographs by Columbia & Victrola and Edison, which used cylinders & flats. He demonstrated the sound differences using different types of needles and horns. Mr. Caruso shared many very interesting little known facts about making records and the history of the companies involved through his interest in preserving Americana

Benediction given by Elder Art Young

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted Priscilla Davis, Secretary

**ALBANY COLONY** From April 3 to September 30, 2010

### 7 ADDITIONS

Elected to membership

Charles Douglas Ball III 82,144

NY5588 14 June 2010 William Brewster

Dianne Harrison Cox 81978 NY5568

22 April, 2010 Stephen Hopkins

Marjorie Gould Devle 82,002 NY5573

30 April, 2010 John Howland

Ronald Clarke Landers 83,437 NY5608

21 Sept, 2010 John Howland

Kevin Dexter Sherman 82,001 NY5572

30 April, 2010 William Bradford

Christine Louise Standish Wille 82,037

NY5577 13 May, 2010 Miles Standish

Charles Chandler Wicker 82,021

NY5575 10 May, 2010 James Chilton

# AUTUMN MEETING November 6, 2010

## Normanside Country Club, Delmar, NY

### Reception and Cash Bar 12:30PM Luncheon 1:00pm

Turkey dinner: Tossed salad, Turkey, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetable, cranberry sauce, Pumpkin pie ala mode. Price: \$25.00

We must have all reservations in the mail by Saturday October 30 **Please make your check payable, \$25.00 per person, to ALBANY COLONY SOMD and mail with reservation form to: Betty Jean Haner, 53 New Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12205-3615** For late reservations (**NO RESERVATIONS CAN BE TAKEN AFTER November 3**), please call Richard Saunders(518) 792-1412 (Glens Falls)

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) for me at the Autumn Luncheon Meeting, Saturday November 6, 2010

Please list names of persons attending: (all entrees are \$25.00) \_\_\_\_\_

My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed I cannot attend/ I wish to donate \_\_\_\_\_

**Hope to see you there!!!**



**Membership Totals** 4-3-10 to 9-30-10 a/o September 30, 2010

185 Regular and 13 Life=198 members

**7 ADDITIONS 0 Deletions**

<u>Other</u>	<u>Approved for Supplementals</u>	
Michael W. Broad	Joan Hurst	30 Jul 2010
O. Donald Collins	Francis Cooke	15 Sep 2010
David W. Morton	Constance Hopkins	21 Apr 2010
Christine Standish	Edward Doty	29 Jul 2010

The author, David Wade Morton, Ed.D., 2<sup>nd</sup> Dep. Lt. Gov. of Albany Colony, can be contacted at [dmorton4@twcny.rr.com](mailto:dmorton4@twcny.rr.com). David is a direct descendant of Francis Eaton of the *Mayflower* (1620) and Christian Penn of the *Anne* (1623) through their daughter, Rachel Eaton, who married Joseph Ramsden. Christian Penn married 2<sup>nd</sup> Francis Billington. Due to the fact that Francis' brother, John Jr., died and left no issue, David is therefore related to all Billington descendants in the New World through their common mother.

**All about.....John Billington Sr.** excerpted from *Saints and Strangers* by George F. Willison, 1945, *Mayflower Families*, Vol. 21, *Family of John Billington* by Harriet W. Hodge, 2001, and *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick, 2006.

"Then there was John Billington of London, destined to win distinction as the only Pilgrim Father to be hanged. With him had come his wife Ellen (i.e., Elinor) and their two sons, John and Francis---*one of ye profanest families amongst them*, exclaimed Bradford, *and I know not by what friends shuffled into their company.*" (*Saints and Strangers*, p. 133) "There is evidence, however, that the Billingtons had connections to the gentry of Lincolnshire." (MF21:1)

When my wife and I first visited Plimouth Plantation so many years ago, one of the docents indicated that the small signal canon within the stockade was as much for internal protection from the "strangers" and dissidents, like John Billington, as it was for their protection from the Indians.

In 1630 John Billington Sr. had an argument with his neighbor, John Newcomen. Shortly after, he encountered him while hunting and shot him in cold blood. By the summer of 1630, times had changed in the New World. The Winthrop Fleet had arrived in Salem with 11 ships and over 1,000 passengers. Governor Bradford asked the new puritanical Governor John Winthrop for an opinion on how to deal with the Billington case. As a result, Bradford then determined that Billington *ought to die, and the land to be purged from blood*. John Billington was executed September 1630. (Mayflower, p. 175)

Bradford had no great love for the Billingtons. After all the boys had discharged a musket in the family area of the *Mayflower* and John Sr. had berated Miles Standish. And last but not least, John Jr. had lost his way down Cape Cod for 5 days causing an unnecessary search for the 16 year old and an encounter with the Nausets.

Yet within this context, the Billingtons did add to the common good of Plymouth Colony in some respects. Francis, age 14, had climbed a tree on Fort Hill back in Plymouth and discovered the "Billington Sea" which Bradford proclaimed would be *an excellent help to us in time*. (Mayflower, p. 110)

And, although not in sympathy with the tenets of the Pilgrim Church, *John Billington, however, had stoutly supported individual independence and freedom of speech, raising the voice of opposition when he disagreed with the rule of government. He and his descendants surely contributed to that integral part of the American character!* (MF21: 4)

## CALLING All ALBANY COLONY PILGRIMS

**WOW-- Two of our Albany Colony Descendents offered the articles here-David Wade Morton wrote about John Billington and Sylvia Story Magin wrote about William Bradford. Thank you both for the interesting articles!!!**

We are doing a series of articles written by descendents of each of our forefathers. Next two up are **William Brewster** and **Peter Brown** so if there are any descendents of either man from our Albany Colony that would like to write something please send or email to me and it will be published in the next Chronicles.

Young William Bradford is at a serious crossroads, but for him at age seventeen it is not the first time. The year is 1607, and the radical religious "Separatists" from Scrooby, with whom he has allied himself since he was twelve, have decided they must leave their British homeland and travel to Holland. The two uncles who have provided a home since the death of his grandfather have given William nothing but grief for his religious zealotry. In the manner of the day, they have not coddled the young orphan, and they have voiced their displeasure at his having abandoned the traditional Church of England to take up with yet another splinter group determined to go its own way.

William has been ailing with an unknown "long sickness" which author Bradford Smith suggests in Bradford of Plymouth may be psychosomatic. A highly intelligent boy, thirsting for knowledge, and pious to a startling degree, his slow recovery from his affliction affords the ideal opportunity for him to educate himself. He gravitates toward father figures, wise mentors and counselors, finding solace in both their leadership and their companionship. Now, only a teenager and facing a momentous decision, he hesitates, but his path is clear; he follows his heart and agrees to accompany the Separatists to Holland.

Their escape from England will be difficult, due in part to a traitorous captain who turns them over to the authorities, but once in Amsterdam (where he first meets eleven-year-old Dorothy May, his future bride) and eventually in Leiden, William lives with the William Brewster family, and there he will grow and flourish. He pursues intense Bible study and learns five languages. He takes up the weaver's trade and is employed as a corduroy worker. In 1612 he becomes a Dutch citizen, a requirement for anyone wishing to join one of the powerful textile guilds. A year later, at age 23, he marries Dorothy May, who is now 16. He will buy a home in Leiden with part of his inheritance and their only child, John, will be born there.

The passage of several years finds the Separatists contemplating yet another move. Having abandoned England's Church but not its culture, they fear that they and their children are becoming "too Dutch," and they are now looking toward the "New World." These yeoman, country people with an abiding love of the land, have been forced to do factory work to earn the barest living in Holland. They long to escape urban poverty and are now visualizing the American continent as the "Promised Land." Also, in Europe there has been escalating conflict as Catholic Spain threatens to overrun Protestant Holland, and the Separatists fear the real possibility of the loss of the religious liberty that had originally drawn them there from England.

Their departure from Holland is delayed by various setbacks, but William and Dorothy Bradford are among the 102 voyagers, nearly a third of them children, who set out for America in two vessels, Mayflower and Speedwell. Their little son John, considered too fragile for the journey, remains in Holland. To make up a full complement aboard ship, several outsiders with vocational skills, many of them members of the Church of England whom the Separatists call "Strangers" have been recruited to make the trip. It is Bradford himself who first refers to their little band as "Pilgrims." Because the second ship, the leaky, "over-masted" Speedwell is forced to turn back as unseaworthy, many of the group will then abandon the whole enterprise. Even so, aboard Mayflower the living conditions are more wretched than they could ever have imagined, & they endure a punishing 66 day voyage.

The Separatists' charter from the British government permits them to settle in Virginia, territory which at that time extends all the way north to "Hudson's River," but when they finally reach Cape Cod in November 1620 they remain there, possibly exhausted and unable to continue. Or it may have been by devious design; as author Smith declares, "The Leiden folks planned to settle in New England before they ever left Holland."

With no right to settle anywhere but Virginia, the Separatists realize that by sailing to New England they are moving beyond the sphere of English law and must establish their own codes of conduct. Before they go ashore in the New World they draw up and sign a formal document establishing a "Civil Body Politic" by which they all commit themselves to abide by such laws as they shall thereafter establish for their mutual welfare. According to author Nathaniel Philbrick in *Mayflower*, there were "internal conflicts before, during, and after the voyage" among the "discontented and mutinous strangers who felt they could do as they pleased because they had no patent." The brief masterpiece the Separatists create is the Mayflower Compact, which has been called "a document unique in world history."

A few days after the ship's arrival and one day after her husband has gone out with a scouting party, Dorothy Bradford either falls or leaps to her death in the harbor without ever having set foot on land. Philbrick, quoting W. Sears Nickerson's book *William Bradford's Wife: A Suicide*, says that "acute melancholia frequently results from scurvy," and suggests that she could have been ailing and despondent. Historian Samuel Eliot Morison believed that Bradford's failure to mention her death in his writings indicates that he, too, suspected suicide. Since the Bradfords have left three-year-old John in Holland, the young widower is once more on his own.

After the small scouting party that includes Bradford completes its explorations of the surrounding area, the Pilgrims sail away from the Cape to make their home at what will become Plymouth, across the bay, and courageously begin the formidable task of colonization. Financial backing for the trip had been procured from some seventy "Merchant Adventurers," opportunists who underwrote the voyage in return for the promise of substantial shipments home of furs, codfish and other goods. Eking out a living in that harsh environment while struggling to repay the largesse of their backers proves to be an enormous challenge for the Pilgrims. Although New England waters teem with fish and shellfish, the colonists are mostly farmers and fabric workers, unskilled at fishing and trapping, and the loss of Speedwell, originally intended for use as a fishing vessel once Mayflower returned to England, costs them dearly.

The Merchant Adventurers have insisted that the colony be operated on a communal basis, each family group contributing according to their ability and each receiving according to their need. The colonists are to work four days a week for the Merchants and two days for themselves, leaving the Sabbath Day inviolate. But as history proves, under such a system people are simply not motivated, since their portion will remain the same whether they are energetic and productive or not.

Their horrific first year in the hostile wilderness brings the Pilgrims to the brink of starvation and they suffer much illness and death, which decimates their number. CONTINUED IN APRIL 2011 CHRONICLES!

ALBANY COLONY  
SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS  
59-113TH STREET  
NORTH TROY, NEW YORK 12182-2818

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW ADDRESS



If you have not already done so, either on paper or on-line, please visit our website to complete the Membership Directory Questionnaire

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyacsmd/index.html>

Albany Colony Website  
[www.themayflowerdescendantsociety.com](http://www.themayflowerdescendantsociety.com)  
General Society of Mayflower  
Descendants website

Notice of Websites

Go to the end Phone # Normanside CC 518-439-2117  
with an arrow directing traffic to the Normanside Country Club

Look for a sign at the traffic light on Delaware & Salisbury

Go 3.6 miles and turn RIGHT onto Salisbury Road

Turn LEFT onto Delaware Avenue (Highway 443 West)

Head North on US 9W East from exit 230 87 & I 787

Directions

Contact [joyce052@aol.com](mailto:joyce052@aol.com) if  
you want to have the  
newsletter emailed to you Go  
green like our ancestors!!!