



Mayflower Chronicles

Albany Colony



Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York

Fall "Compact Day" Luncheon Meeting

November 2, 2024 - 12:00-3:30 p.m.

Albany Country Club, 300 Wormer Road, Voorheesville, NY

Colony Governor's Message for November 2, 2024

The Mayflower Compact was signed on the *Mayflower* on November 21 [November 11, Old Style], 1620, in Provincetown Harbor, Massachusetts. It was the first framework of government written and enacted in the territory that is now the United States of America.

The Mayflower Compact, originally titled "*Agreement Between the Settlers of New Plymouth*," was the first governing document of Plymouth Colony. It was written by the men aboard the Mayflower, consisting of Separatist Puritans, adventurers, and tradesmen.

The 1620 agreement was also known as "*The Plymouth Combination*" and usually referred to by Plymouth inhabitants as "*The Combination*." It was first called the "*Mayflower Compact*" in 1793 when it was reprinted for the first time outside of Massachusetts by a historian in the state of New York.

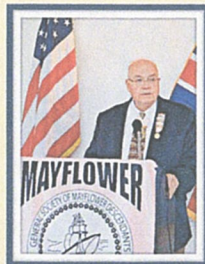
The Mayflower Compact created laws for Mayflower Pilgrims and non-Pilgrims alike for the good of their new colony. It was a short document which established that: The colonists would remain loyal subjects to King James, despite their need for self-governance.

Our Luncheon Meeting program will be presented by Sara (Mrs. Michael) Center of Clifton Park, who is a Research and Collections Technician at the New York State Bureau of Historic Sites and Park Services. Sara, a graduate of the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, has a Master's Degree in Art History and Design and an Advanced Certificate in Museum Studies, and was formerly employed at the famous Frick Museum in New York City. She will share with us "*Protecting New York Legacy at Peebles Island State Park*."

Thanks to Sylvia Magin for creating this issue of our Mayflower Chronicles and to Jim Pratt for keeping the Albany Colony website and Facebook page up to date.

Our next meetings:

May 3 and November 1, 2025



Dave Morton

Colony Governor

"Life is beautiful not because of the things we see or do. Life is beautiful because of the people we meet."

Simon Sinek

Colony Officers:

Colony Governor —

David W. Morton, Ed.D

1st Dep. Col. Gov. —

Douglass (Tim) M. Mabee

2nd Dep. Col. Gov. —

David A. Young

Secretary —

Sandra A. Zerrillo

Treasurer —

Lisa G. O'Brien

Asst. Treasurer --

Carol T. Felsen

Co-Captain —

Douglass (Tim) M. Mabee

Co-Captain —

Priscilla S. Davis

Historian and Archivist—

Paul S. Johnson

Elder—

Arthur F. Young, Jr.

Chronicles Editor —

Sylvia Story Magin

Email: SylviaSMagin@aol.com

Webmaster — James A. Pratt

Albany Colony websites:

<https://www.nyacsmd.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NYACSMMD>



Historian's Report

Albany Colony, Society of Mayflower Descendants

Albany Colony's Membership Totals as of September 15, 2024

Regular Members 250, Life Members 15, Total Membership: 265

New Members (4) Welcome "Aboard!"

ADDITIONS:

New Members

| <u>Name and Ancestor</u> | <u>NY Number</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| James Cassidy—Richard More | 6853 | 04/12/24 |
| Julie Lynn Boston Casey—Mary Allerton | 6856 | 05/03/24 |
| Cole Edward Ladison--Isaac Allerton | 6857 | 05/03/24 |
| Diane Sue Fleenor--William Bradford | 6880 | 06/21/24 |

Reinstated

Amanda H. Collins, Steven L. Gilger, Lynda Rogers-Seeley

TERMINATIONS:

Deceased Brian Cook (died 06/09/24); Lynne Byron (died 09/15/24)

Resignations Joyce H. Rodecap

Transfers Out

Amy Beth Andrzejek and Jonathan Arthur Andrzejek (to Florida)

Paul S. Johnson, Historian

"But it is obvious that our fathers, whose efforts have planted these great and prosperous cities along the once lonely trails of our own broad land, received all the fundamentals of civilization as a heritage from their European ancestors." *James Henry Breasted*

The Compact

In 1802, [speaking at Plymouth](#), the future president [John Quincy Adams](#) underscored the lasting importance of the agreement signed aboard the Mayflower more than 180 years earlier, calling it "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." *History channel website*

Since we included directions to the scene of our upcoming Luncheon Meeting at Albany Country Club in previous issues of the Chronicles, in this modern climate of smartphones and GPS systems, it seemed unnecessary to print directions again in this issue. We are confident that you can find us!

Minutes of the May 4, 2024 Meeting Albany Colony, Society of Mayflower Descendants

The Meeting of the Albany Colony, SOMD, was held at Chieftans Restaurant, 584 East Main Street, Cobleskill, New York on Saturday, May 4th. The meeting was called to order by Colony Gov. David W. Morton at 12:24 p.m. The Invocation was given by Elder Arthur F. Young, Jr., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag of the United States of America led by 1st Colony Deputy Gov. & Co-Captain Douglass (Tim) Mabee.

Officers present were introduced by Colony Gov. Morton: [1st Deputy Colony Gov.](#) & Co-Captain Douglass (Tim) Mabee; 2nd Deputy Colony Governor David Young; Secretary Sandra A. Zerrillo; Treasurer Lisa O'Brien; Assistant Treasurer Carol Felsen; Co-Captain Priscilla Davis; Historian & Archivist Paul S. Johnson; and Elder Arthur F. Young, Jr. Gov. Morton also introduced Special Guest New York City Colony Historian Susan Abanor.

New members present were introduced by Colony Gov. Morton: Louise Ilene Sparrow (Francis Cooke). **Self-introductions** by members and guests included name, location, and ancestors. Members present - 33 & guests - 18 = 51. **Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the November 7, 2023, meeting were printed in the *Chronicles*. Colony Secretary Zerrillo thanked Priscilla Davis for preparing the November meeting minutes in her absence due knee replacement surgery. **Treasurer's Report:** Presented by Treasurer Lisa O'Brien. **The report was filed.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Audit Committee Report: 1st Deputy Colony Gov. & Audit Committee Chairman Tim Mabee reported that the audit committee had examined the records of the Treasurer of the Albany Colony, Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York. This was a review of the checking account, bank statements and supporting documentation from April 30, 2023 – April 30, 2024. The Committee found that the records were in good order and their contents appeared reasonable with the materials appearing to fairly represent the financial position, income, and expenses for the organization. The Audit Committee recommended that a Finance Committee be appointed to assist the Treasurer in making decisions regarding investing the Colony funds and moving bank accounts to other institutions to increase revenue and profit. A motion was made by Art Young, seconded by Priscilla Davis to accept the Audit Report. **The motion was approved.**

Albany Colony Governor Morton appointed the following Colony members to serve on the Finance Committee:
Lisa O'Brien, David Young, & Sandra Zerrillo.

Historian: The Historian's Report written by Paul S. Johnson was printed in the May 2024 issue of the *Chronicles*. The membership counts as of February 29, 2024, are: 248 Regular Members and 14 Life Members for a total of 262. **The report was filed.** Colony Gov. Morton recited the names of the five (5) deceased Colony members: Grace Nazarian (11/08/23); Constance Pratt (12/29/23); Lillian Barringer (02/29/24); Valerie J. Jones (03/10/24); and Linda C. Akins (04/10/24). Elder Young offered a beautiful prayer in their memory.

Chronicles: Colony Gov. Morton thanked Editor Sylvia Magin for her outstanding dedication to publishing the issues of the *Chronicles*. Sylvia thanked Sara Harmon for the article that she wrote for the May issue and reminded everyone that she welcomes their input and encourages members to submit articles for upcoming issues.

Website: Colony Gov. Morton thanked Webmaster Jim Pratt for his work in maintaining the Albany Colony website and face book page. These are members only sites, so please contact Jim if you wish to gain access. Jim reminded everyone that the *Chronicles* are available on both sites.

Longevity Certificates: The Albany Colony recognized 14 Members with Longevity Certificates. The complete list was published in the May *Chronicles*. Due to scheduling conflicts none of the recipients were able to attend this meeting to receive their certificate. Longevity Certificate Chairman Sylvia Magin will mail the certificates to recipients.

ROLL CALL OF ANCESTORS

John Alden and wife Priscilla Mullins Alden - 5

Isaac Allerton and wife Mary Norris Allerton & children Bartholomew, Remember, Mary, John - 3

John Billington and wife Elinor & sons John and Francis - 3

William Bradford and wife Dorothy May Bradford - 2

William Brewster and wife Mary & children Love and Wrestling - 5

Minutes (continued-1)

Peter Brown - 1
James Chilton and wife Susanna & daughter Mary - 0
Francis Cooke and son John - 6
Edward Doty - 3
Frances Eaton and wife Sarah & son Samuel - 3
Moses Fletcher - 0

Edward and Mrs. Fuller & son Samuel - 3
Samuel Fuller - 0
Stephen Hopkins and wife Elizabeth Fisher Hopkins & children Constance & Giles - 6
John Howland and wife Elizabeth Tilley Howland - 8
Richard More - 1
William Mullins (wife Alice & children Priscilla and Joseph) - 1
Degory Priest - 1
Thomas Rogers and son Joseph - 0
Henry Samson - 1
George Soule - 1
Miles Standish - 1
John Tilley and wife Joan Hurst Tilley (and daughter Elizabeth) - 8
Richard Warren - 2
William White and wife Susanna Jackson White & sons Resolved and Peregrine - 3
Edward Winslow (and wife Elizabeth Barker Winslow) - 0

~

Descendants tied for most representation—8

John Howland and wife Elizabeth Tilley Howland & John Tilley and wife Joan Hurst Tilley

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion #1: A motion was made by Art Young, seconded by Carol Felsen to make a \$25.00 donation to the Education Committee of the General Mayflower Society in the name of each recently deceased Albany Colony Member. Five (5) donations in the names of Grace Nazarian; Constance Pratt; Lillian Barringer; Valerie J. Jones; and Linda C. Akins will be sent by the Albany Colony Treasurer to the General Mayflower Society. Total expenditure will be \$125.00. **The motion was approved.**

Motion #2: A motion was made by Tim Mabee, seconded by Everett Mayhew to purchase an American Flag, adjustable flagpole with an American Eagle topper, and heavy weighted base. The total expenditure should not exceed \$300.00. **The motion was approved.**

Motion #3: A motion was made by Tim Mabee, seconded by Art Young to give the Albany Colony Treasurer the authority to invest or reinvest Colony Funds as needed. **The motion was approved.**

Motion #4: A motion was made by Treasurer Lisa O'Brien on behalf of Kristen Moore, seconded by Carol Felsen that the Albany Colony donate \$1,000.00 to the Meeting House Renovations in Plymouth, Massachusetts. **The motion was approved.**

Motion #5: A motion to reconsider the previous motion (Motion #4 above) was made by Art Young, seconded by Rebecca Manore. **The motion failed.**

Benediction was given by Elder Arthur F. Young, Jr. Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Next Meetings: – November 2, 2024 & May 3, 2025

Minutes (continued-2)

Program: "Colonel Ichabod Alden and the Cherry Valley Massacre" presented by Peter Lindemann. Peter is a member of the Cobleskill Historical Society, Trustee in the Schoharie County Historical Society and with the Old Stone Fort Museum. John Alden is his 10th great-grandfather. Peter is also descended from Col. Ichabod Alden who commanded the 7th Massachusetts Regiment in Cherry Valley.

The Cherry Valley Massacre was an attack by British and Iroquois forces on the fort and the town of Cherry Valley in central New York on November 11, 1778. Col. Alden refused to believe the intelligence about the approaching hostile force. As a result, he did not bring the civilians into the fort for protection. When the attack came, Col. Alden was not in the fort. During the attack 32 civilians and 16 soldiers were killed and 71 residents were captured.

It has been described as one of the most horrific frontier massacres of the American Revolution. Col. Alden was killed by Joseph Brandt after the skirmish and is buried on the site where the soldiers fell during the attack which is now within the grounds of the Cherry Valley Cemetery. The violent frontier war of 1778 brought calls for the Continental Army to take action and helped pave the way for the launch of the 1779 Sullivan Expedition commissioned by Major General George Washington and led by Major General John Sullivan.

Sandra A. Zervillo, Secretary

GSMD Member Societies

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants is made up of 54 Member Societies representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Europe, and Australia. Member Societies are volunteer organizations that were authorized and granted a Charter by the General Board of Assistants (GBOA).

Each Member Society has its own Constitution and Bylaws and elects its own officers (Governor, Assistant Governor, Treasurer, Secretary, Historian, Elder, Counsellor, Captain, Surgeon). Additionally, Member Societies set their own dues and fees. Those applying to become a member of The Mayflower Society must apply for membership through a Member Society.

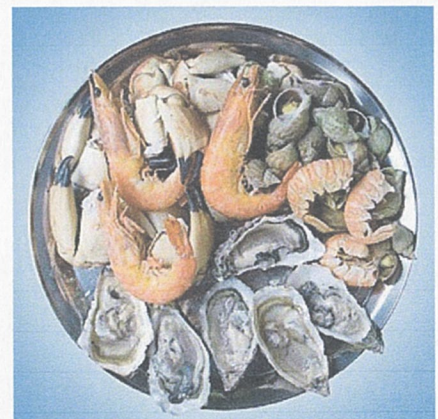
In addition to their own elected officers, every Member Society has a Deputy Governor General (DGG) and an Assistant General (AG) who are nominated by their Society to be elected by the General Board of Assistants. They represent their Society at annual GBOA meetings and at the General *GSMD website*

"When you trace your genealogy, you find connections to many of the people and events that shaped history. History is not the story of some old irrelevant strangers. No. History is your story. Your family was there - your grandmothers and grandfathers, uncles and aunts, cousins, nephews and nieces. If not for them, you wouldn't even be here." *Laurence Overmire*

"Lobsters and other shellfish provided the Pilgrims with an easily accessible food source in the summer months and was especially important in the early years when food was in short supply. William Bradford wrote that during the difficult years when food had to be rationed "all went to seeking of shellfish, which at low water they digged out of the sand."

"Though thankful, the Pilgrims did grow tired of this limited diet. Bradford wrote in 1623 that "the best dish they could present their friends with was a lobster or a piece of fish without bread or anything else but a cup of water. And the long continuance of this diet, and their labours abroad, had something abated the freshness of their former complexion."

GSMD website



Our Spring Luncheon Meeting, held at Chieftans Restaurant in Cobleskill, featured a very special guest, Susan Abanor, New York Colony Historian, who came up from Manhattan for our event. Gracious and friendly, she clearly enjoyed the occasion, and it was delightful to have her with us. Susan is shown here enjoying the company of Albany Colony Governor David Morton and Historian Paul Johnson.



Name tags are a big help!



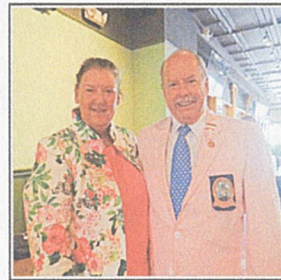
Although six new members have joined Albany Colony since our Fall Luncheon Meeting, only one, Louise Ilene Sparrow (above, right), was present to be welcomed at our Spring get-together.



Colony WebMaster Jim Pratt can be counted on to take pictures for the websites, and to share them with your *Chronicles* Editor for the next issue!

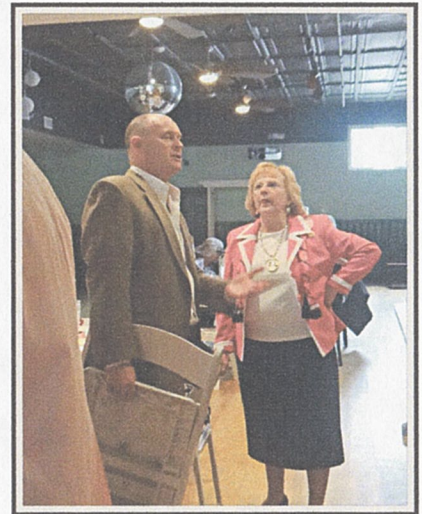


None of the 2024 Membership Longevity honorees joined us in attending the Spring Luncheon Meeting, so two days later your *Chronicles* Editor tucked all fourteen of their official certificates into my Mayflower tote bag, took them to the post office, and put them in the mail.



"Food is maybe the only universal thing that really has the power to bring everyone together."

Guy Fieri





Our program presenter for the day was **Peter Lindemann**, retired from a 33-year career in human resources with the New York State Assembly in Albany. He is a member of the Cobleskill Historical Society, a trustee in the Schoharie County Historical Society and the Old Stone Fort Museum, and a local Schoharie County historian. Peter long ago began following his passion by sharing the past through writing, giving lectures and standing in for famous historical personalities.



Peter, a tenth great-grandson of Mayflower Pilgrim John Alden, regaled us with tales and details of the “Cherry Valley Massacre,” an attack by British and Iroquois forces on a fort and the town of Cherry Valley on November 11, 1778, during the American Revolutionary War. Having taken place only about fifteen miles from where we were gathered, it has been described as one of the most horrific frontier massacres of the war, in which Captain Ichabod Alden was involved.

A mixed group of Loyalists, British soldiers, Senecas, and Mohawks descended on Cherry Valley, whose defenders, despite warnings, were unprepared for the attack. During the raid, the Seneca in particular targeted non-combatants, and reports state that thirty such individuals were killed, in addition to a number of armed defenders.

Peter supplemented his narrative with illustrations on large storyboards displayed on an easel, with Dave then raising them higher so everyone across the room could see them. We are grateful for Peter’s dedication to the preservation of local history, and as a result we can now all have a better understanding and appreciation of the events that transpired in central New York during the Revolution.



Many thanks to WebMaster Jim Pratt for this Spring group photo of our Colony members.

"To understand and reconnect with our stories, the stories of the ancestors, is to build our identities."

Frank Delaney

The Passage

The first few months of the Pilgrims' journey were truly a challenge; two months at sea, with 102 passengers and about 30 crew members – on a ship that clearly was not meant to hold so many people. Those who have visited Plymouth, and who not only have seen the replica of the *Mayflower*, but have been on board, will understand – and marvel at the living conditions of these courageous people.

Only one life was lost at sea, William Butten, a young servant to Dr. Samuel Fuller. One life was lost at Provincetown Harbor when William Bradford's wife, Dorothy, fell overboard. There was a birth at sea, a son to Stephen and Elizabeth Hopkins whom they named Oceanus. William and Susanna White's son Peregrine was born to them when the ship was anchored at Provincetown.

They arrived in November, when the weather was against them. At different times, three exploration parties went out on Cape Cod to determine the best place to settle; they would walk for miles, and as a result, the men became sick. They would spend days in the icy rain, cold temperatures and snow, with no shelters or dry clothes. As a result, their rate of death was high.

When scrolling through the short profiles of the passengers you will often see the words "died the first winter of 1620/21." Half of their numbers perished the first winter. Particularly heartbreaking are the families who perished – The Tinkers, Turners and Tilleys; those orphaned – Mary Chilton, Samuel Fuller, Priscilla Mullins and Elizabeth Tilley. [GSMD Website](#)



The collection of cherished artifacts shown below is displayed in Nathaniel Philbrick's wonderful 2006 book "*Mayflower*." What Mayflower descendant wouldn't love the opportunity to be able to see and touch one of these treasured objects!!



The Landing Site

"Though the Pilgrims did not know it, they were landing on a unique piece of the earth's surface. Nowhere else is there an annex to a continent like Cape Cod. Other peninsulas are rocky and rugged but this one is frail and sandy, a shifting heap of glacial remains where no bedrock has ever been found. Perhaps, with their trust in the Bible, it is as well they did not know they would be building on sand. In climate, soil and vegetation the area they were to claim is different from all the rest of New England, for geologically Plymouth is one with the Cape."

Bradford of Plymouth, Bradford Smith

These famous people are all Mayflower Descendants. The Internet site that displayed their photos did not identify them but many of them you will recognize; some may be related to you!



Why Join The Mayflower Society?

In 1620, a brave group of 102 men, women, and children sailed across the Atlantic on the *Mayflower* in search of a better life. In 1897, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants was established to pay homage to the Pilgrims through preservation and education. The Mayflower Society now has a network of more than 54 member societies across the world. Our members have formed lifelong bonds together while honoring the sacred legacy of our ancestors.

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants is committed to research on the lineal descent of the Mayflower Pilgrims and education about the Pilgrims who traveled aboard the *Mayflower* in 1620. The Society provides education and understanding of why the Mayflower Pilgrims were important, how they shaped western civilization, and what their 1620 voyage means today and its impact on the world.

~

When you join The Mayflower Society, you preserve your family's genealogical history. You document, for generations to come, the legacy of your courageous *Mayflower* ancestors and the generations that followed, many who continued to demonstrate a brave and trailblazing spirit by forging paths westward throughout our nation.

(GSMD website)



Albany Colony

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York

Fall Compact Day Luncheon Meeting November 2, 2024

Albany Country Club, 300 Wormer Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186

Social Time (cash bar) 12:00 Noon – Lunch and Meeting 12:30

Program: "Protecting New York Legacy at Peebles Island State Park." Presenter: Sara Center

~

Please join us ~ guests are always welcome!

Your traditional Thanksgiving-style meal will include Harvest Bisque, Roast Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Cranberry Sauce, Rolls and Butter, Coffee or Tea, Pumpkin Pie



Please make your check for \$43.00 per person (includes gratuity) payable to "Albany Colony SOMD " and mail it with the reservation blank below to
Lisa O'Brien, 4 Keystone Court, Albany, NY 12205

Reservations must be received by October 22

Please reserve _____ places for me at the November 2 Luncheon Meeting:
(Please list below the names of persons attending)

My check for \$_____ is enclosed. Signed: _____

I cannot attend, but it will be my pleasure to donate to the Albany Colony \$_____

We look forward to seeing you there!