



MAYFLOWER LYNES



Fall 2010

SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDENTS IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE

VOLUME LII, ISSUE 2

OUR GOVERNOR'S GREETING

Delaware's historic Hale-Byrnes House offered the perfect setting for our annual Spring Reception on May 23, where fifty three of our members and guests convened to enjoy fellowship and to hear our Past Governor Kim Burdick, the house's resident curator, enlighten us with stories of that historic house's past. Kim told us that the house was built by Samuel Hale, who sold it to Daniel Byrnes in 1754, and that the house gained historic stature after the Battle of Cooch's Bridge when General George Washington held a council of war with his generals there on September 6, 1777, just prior to the Battle of the Brandywine. Many who attended mentioned that although they knew of the house, they had never been there and were delighted by the quality of its restoration and furnishings and by its beautiful setting on Delaware's White Clay Creek. Special thanks go to our Events Chair, Mary Criscuolo, who provided an extraordinary array of refreshments including tea sandwiches, cheeses, nuts, fruits and desserts including fresh strawberries dipped in hot chocolate sauce.



We were pleased to have as our special guests at the Spring Reception Mayflower Quarterly Editor Alice Teal, and Deputy Assistant Governor General and Assistant Mayflower Quarterly Editor Harry Folger. DAGG Harry Folger, on behalf of the Editors of the Mayflower Quarterly, then presented a special, and rarely given award, The Order of the Hook, to our Deputy Governor General and Past Governor Noel Kuhrt. The Order of the Hook is a very special award which is presented to a distinguished member of the Mayflower Society who "exemplifies the Spirit of the Mayflower Pilgrims in Cape Cod".

One of our primary objectives this year has been to attract new members, and the results of this effort have indeed been gratifying. Since the first of this year we have added eight new members. Three of our new members, all of whom have a parent who is already one of our members, were presented their membership certificates at the reception: Leslie Swanson, and two of my sons, Will and Tyler Lassen. Kudos go to our membership team, Historian John Victor, Membership Chair Marshall Baker, and Past Historian Anne Happholdt, who have worked diligently to clear up a backlog of applications and to receive and process additional ones. One of my goals is to increase our membership by a net of at least 10% during my term as Governor.

On July 4 our Delaware Society co-sponsored a "Let Freedom Ring" service held at Emanuel Episcopal Church in Old New Castle. The principal speaker was our Past Governor Kim Burdick, and the service culminated by the ringing of the church's bells at 2 pm, joining church bells being rung at that time across the country, to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of independence on July 4, 1776.

Work is progressing on preserving and archiving our past fifty years of records, including our member application files, minutes, and memorabilia. Through the diligent efforts of our generous member Barbara Wideman who has donated countless hours to this project, our files are being sorted, culled and organized. Past Governor Christine Crossan's committee is arranging to have our member applications recorded on microfilm which will be archived in secure storage. Files accessible on a PC will be created from these.

On a sad note, I am sorry to report that our serving Assistant Secretary, Scott Hartzell, died last month at the age of 42 following a courageous battle against cancer. Scott was an enthusiastic and energetic contributor to our leadership team and will be missed by us all.

Our 52nd Annual Meeting and Compact Luncheon will be held next November 20th at the Delaware National Country Club. We are honored to have University of Delaware History Professor Jonathan Russ as our guest speaker. His talk is entitled: "Carving out a Life in the Wilderness: The Environmental Challenges of Settling the New World". I look forward to seeing you all there.

Faithfully, Kai Lassen

SPRING RECEPTION AT HALE BYRNES HOUSE



Kim Burdick is a curator. She lives in an historic house museum and values the central role of the artifact as a source of knowledge and as a conduit to understanding the daily and intellectual lives of people in other generations.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MARSHALL EARLE BAKER

Good News. Historian John Victor has cleared the backlog of applications for Society membership. Following are his accomplishments. There are two more applications that are close to being ready to submit and a number of inquiries have been received from individuals who are interested in joining, and who are at work assembling the information needed. And, incidentally, as members, we should be mindful that one of the most valuable assets we have to foster ones initial interest in membership, is our Web Site.

<http://mayflower-de.org/>

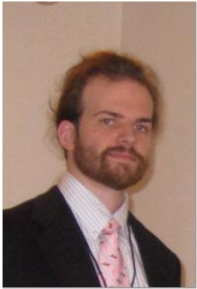
New Member	National Number	Delaware Number	Ancestor
Ryan J. Victor	81609	389	John Alden
Kyle J. Victor	81610	390	John Alden
Joyce Elaine Zoch	81687	391	George Soule
Anne Wright Stewart	81849	392	John Alden
Leslie Keating Swanson	81905	393	Stephen Hopkins
William DuPont Lassen	81934	394	Richard Warren
James Tyler Lassen	81935	395	Richard Warren
William Carpender Amos	82120	396	William White

We are in the process of getting each of our new members to combine their photograph with a brief biography aimed at their recognition by all. To that end, the following are published.



James Tyler Lassen - Tyler, age 19, is a freshman at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, where he is a double major in Economics and Mathematics. He is a 2010 graduate of The Tatnall School. A lifelong resident of Delaware, Tyler resides with his family at Crooked Billet in Greenville, Delaware. During the summer preceding his junior year at Tatnall, Tyler lived with the Xhosa Tribe in the mountains of southeastern South Africa, helping teach the tribe how to establish a clean water and sustainable food supply, as well as working with AIDS orphans in the evenings. During the summer preceding his senior year, he served as an intern for Congressman Michael Castle. His interests include hunting, fishing, horseback riding, skiing and diving.

Leslie Keating Swanson-Is a Wilmington, Delaware native. Over the years, Leslie has also lived in Chicago, Illinois, on the coast of Maine, and in Annapolis, Maryland. Her past career in investments and comprehensive financial planning was with Morgan Stanley (Philadelphia) and BB&T's Wealth Management division (Annapolis).She is currently pursuing her CFP designation (Certified Financial Planner). Over the years, Leslie has been a Vice President, Estate Planning Council of Suburban Maryland; an Investment Committee member, Mid-Shore Community Foundation; on two hospital Planned Giving committees; and an adjunct member of the CFA Society of Philadelphia. She is also a member of numerous genealogical societies regarding her Dutch, English, French, and Swedish ancestors. Last summer, Leslie Traveled to Amsterdam for further research on her 9th great-grandfather Kiliaen Van Rensselaer (West India Company/ Rensselaerswyck). She is a descendant of Stephen Hopkins.



William duPont Lassen - Will Lassen, age 21, is a senior at Rensselaer Polytechnial Institute in Troy New York, where he is a Video Game Design Major and Computer Scientist. He is a 2007 graduate of Tower Hill School. A lifelong resident of Delaware, Will resides with his family at Crooked Billet in Greenville, Delaware. Will designed and constructed the website for the Delaware Mayflower Society, and served as its first webmaster. Will's interests include building computers, gaming, reading and gourmet cooking. Following his graduation from RPI, Will plans to work as a video game designer.

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

PAIGE SULLIVAN

In 2010 we added two new junior members, Lucy Brock Weinig and Henry Trefethen Weinig who are the children of Greg Weinig and descendents of Alden. We lost 10 members due to meeting the age limit. All sponsors are encouraged to convert junior members to full adult members or to communicate with those they sponsored and make them aware of the opportunity to join the SMDD as an adult member. I will do my best to send letters or emails to the sponsors reminding them of options.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

LOUISE ROSELLE AND SUSAN BUNTING

Louise recently wrote to Lillian M. Lowery, Delaware Secretary of Education, to offer Mayflower curriculum materials. In particular, Louise recommended the award- winning website of the Pennsylvania Society, www.sail1620.org which is designed to be fun as well as an educational road map to this Mayflower corner of 17th Century history. Louise also stressed that our Society has an abiding interest in our youth having a complete understanding of American history as well as the history of our pilgrim ancestors.

Lillian responded saying, " Thank you for sharing the website. I will make sure that our Curriculum and Instruction Staff have a copy of the email, including the link to this valuable information. Please share my gratitude with the members of the education committee for the Society of Mayflower Descendants".

NOTABLE SUMMER READING..... WOW

Here is a great book by a great Mayflower historian. Caleb Johnson is the author of a biography of our own Pilgrim, Stephen Hopkins, entitled "Here Shall I Die Ashore". Caleb has written a number of scholarly publications as well. His website, www.mayflowerhistory.com is very interesting with much of it geared toward high school age students.

The following Address was given in 1820 by Daniel Webster. He was commemorating the bicentennial of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock.

"The First Scene of our History"

We have come to this Rock, to record here our homage for our Pilgrim Fathers; our sympathy in their sufferings; our gratitude for their labors; our admiration of their virtues; our veneration for their piety; and our attachment to those principles of civil and religious liberty, which they encountered the dangers of the ocean, the storms of heaven, the violence of savages, disease, exile, and famine, to enjoy and to establish. And we would leave here, also, for the generations which are rising to fill our places, some proof that we have endeavored to transmit the great inheritance unimpaired; that in our estimate of public principles and private virtue, in our veneration of religion and piety, in our devotion to civil and religious liberty, in our regard for whatever advances human knowledge or improves human happiness, we are not altogether unworthy of our origin.

There is a local feeling connected with this occasion, too strong to be resisted; a sort of genius of the place, which inspires and awes us. We feel that we are on the spot where the first scene of our history was laid; where the hearths and altars of New England were first placed; where Christianity, and civilization, and letters made their first lodgement, in a vast extent of country, covered with a wilderness, and peopled by roving barbarians. We are here, at the season of the year at which the event took place. The imagination irresistibly and rapidly draws around us the principal features and the leading characters in the original scene. We cast our eyes abroad on the ocean, and we see where the little bark, with the interesting group upon its deck, made its slow progress to the shore. We look around us, and behold the hills and promontories where the anxious eyes of our fathers first saw the places of habitation and of rest. We feel the cold which benumbed, and listen to the winds which pierced them. Beneath us is the Rock, on which New England received the feet of the Pilgrims. We seem even to behold them, as they struggle with the elements, and, with toilsome efforts, gain the shore. We listen to the chiefs in council; we see the unexampled exhibition of female fortitude and resignation; we hear the whisperings of youthful impatience, and we see, what a painter of our own has also represented by his pencil, chilled and shivering childhood, houseless, but for a mother's arms, couchless, but for a mother's breast, till our own blood almost freezes ...

The hours of this day are rapidly flying, and this occasion will soon be passed. Neither we nor our children can expect to behold its return. They are in the distant regions of futurity, they exist only in the all-creating power of God, who shall stand here a hundred years hence, to trace, through us, their descent from the Pilgrims, and to survey, as we have now surveyed, the progress of their country, during the lapse of a century. We would anticipate their concurrence with us in our sentiments of deep regard for our common ancestors. We would anticipate and partake the pleasure with which they will then recount the steps of New England's advancement. On the morning of that day, although it will not disturb us in our repose, the voice of acclamation and gratitude, commencing on the Rock of Plymouth, shall be transmitted through millions of the sons of the Pilgrims, till it lose itself in the murmurs of the Pacific seas.

We would leave for the consideration of those who shall then occupy our places, some proof that we hold the blessings transmitted from our fathers in just estimation; some proof of our attachment to the cause of good government, and of civil and religious liberty; some proof of a sincere and ardent desire to promote every thing which may enlarge the understandings and improve the hearts of men. And when, from the long distance of a hundred years, they shall look back upon us, they shall know, at least, that we possessed affections, which, running backward and warming with gratitude for what our ancestors have done for our happiness, run forward also to our posterity, and meet them with cordial salutation, ere yet they have arrived on the shore of being.

Advance, then, ye future generations! We would hail you, as you rise in your long succession, to fill the places which we now fill, and to taste the blessings of existence where we are passing, and soon shall have passed, our own human duration. We bid you welcome to this pleasant land of the fathers. We bid you welcome to the healthful skies and the verdant fields of New England. We greet your accession to the great inheritance which we have enjoyed. We welcome you to the blessings of good government and religious liberty. We welcome you to the treasures of science and the delights of learning. We welcome you to the transcendent sweets of domestic life, to the happiness of kindred, and parents, and children. We welcome you to the immeasurable blessings of rational existence, the immortal hope of Christianity, and the light of everlasting truth!

Source: *The Penguin Book of Historic Speeches*. MacArthur, Brian, ed. Penguin Books, 1996.

Here is another great book to share. The title is "The English on the Delaware: 1610-1682" -Rutgers University Press- by C. A. Weslager. The book concisely relates the early colonial development of the Delaware Valley to the whole north east coastal region. While the Weslager main focus is on the west shore of the bay and both sides of the river above Salem, it has an important insight to the wider moves and conflicts by the Dutch, the several colonies of English from Virginia north, the Swedes, and as well, by various decisions made by European monarchs, legislators, and courts that often relied on erroneous maps.

COMPLETED VOYAGES

Laurance Alfred Gleason

Born 11 November 1926, Died 4 December 2009
Gen #31963, DE #127; Elected 7 February 1969
Descended 9th from Richard Warren

Emalea Pusey Trentman (Warner)

Born 7 May 1914, Died 23 January 2010
Gen #59978, DE #280; Elected 19 November 1993
Descended 10th from George Soule

Barbara Ann Swayze (Stewart)

Born 10 January 1919, Died 12 May 2010
Gen #30820, DE #106; Elected 15 November 1961
Descended 10th from John Alden

Jean Shelton Bennett (Barlow)

Born 23 July 1917, Died 29 May 2010
Gen #32491, DE #133; Elected 6 October 1969
Descended 11th from Francis Cook

Scott David Hartzell

Born 21 September 1967, Died 21 August 2010
Gen #73326, DE #374; Elected 4 June 2004
Descended 13th from Richard Howland

Jane Westcott Groo (Rayner)

Born 9 February 1923, Died 18 September 2010
Gen #30346, DE #102; Elected 20 April 1967
Descended 10th from William Brewster

Edward W. Cooch

Born 22 March 1920, Died 23 September 2010
Gen #16934, DE #19; Elected 11 October 1958 (Charter Member)
Descended 11th from John Howland

Faith of our Fathers, Living Still

John L Crossan, Elder

As Elder of the Society, one of my primary tasks is to write a note of condolence to the family of a deceased member. In times of death and grief, we wrestle with the questions of what to say, how to comfort, “why?” and “now what?” It doesn’t matter whether those who die were young or old, sick or healthy we still grieve our loss, which is only magnified by our struggle to answer these questions.

As descendents of the Mayflower pilgrims, we have a rich heritage to draw upon, for our ancestors were no stranger to death or the unknown. They left a land they knew for a life in which they could only trust in God. Between the voyage and the first winter they suffered staggering losses which could have left them hopeless. But despite the sorrow of the present and the uncertainty of the future, they pressed on in faith, faith that the God who created them would sustain them each day and redeem their future. We bear witness almost 400 years later, that indeed God was faithful, and their hope and perseverance were not in vain.

The story of our pilgrim ancestors calls to mind the story of Abraham and saints throughout the ages as recounted in the biblical book of Hebrews:

By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and only strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. Hebrews 11:11-16

As we carry on in our own daily pilgrimage in light of the death of our family and friends, we are challenged to consider our destiny as well as our legacy. For what do we hope, and how will our footsteps guide those who follow us? Today we are encouraged in our joys and sorrows by those who have gone before us, whether in centuries past or this past year. And as their torch is passed to us, may their legacy of love inspire our faith and our faith make certain our hope.

God of the ages, who throughout time hast proved faithful to thy people, quicken our hearts with thy love and enkindle our hope by thy Spirit, that we may be found faithful in our time and counted among the great company of saints in this life and in the world to come, through the grace of Jesus Christ ur Lord. Amen

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GENEALOGY CORNER

Following , on page 8, are 10 Free Genealogy Websites where one may find treasures of understanding about one's own family history and about history in general.

ELIZABETH ANN HAPPHOLDT

1. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm> is a site to discover vital records.
2. <http://www.census.gov/prod/2000pubs/cff-2.pdf> Provides detailed information on each federal census. The 1940 census is coming in 2012.
3. <http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php/topic=DHS+Press+Releases&id=110099&v=cdc> article Provides information about Maine's new law regarding its vital records.
4. <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/problem-ancestors> Strategies for finding problem ancestors.
5. [http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc.brighamyounguniversity\(BUY\)](http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc.brighamyounguniversity(BUY)) brings more than 60,000 items from a number of libraries.
6. <http://www.raogk.org> Random Acts Of Genealogical Kindness. More than 4000 volunteers will help you.
7. <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc> The Massachusetts Archives database spans from 1629 to 1915.
8. <http://www.nyol.org/ebooks> More than 700,000 images have been digitalized from the New York Public Library's Collection.
9. <http://www.a2a.org.uk> Indexes of 10.3 million records from 418 repositories in the UK.
10. <http://facebook.com> Facebook can help you exchange family tree information and images.

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FIRST CLASS