

Pilgrim Peter Brown Society News

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Governor's Message

Greetings, Peter Brown Cousins! It is a privilege and an honor to serve as your governor. During my term, I hope to engage our Society in perpetuating the memory of Peter Brown and his descendants who settled in the New World and laid the foundation of our nation.

We have a small, talented society. Susan Abanor founded PPBS in 2014. Our treasurer Mark Hassenpflug drew up the Articles of Incorporation, helping us to be incorporated in New Hampshire. Sheryl Schilling serves as Historian and Editor of our newsletter. Her son David is our Webmaster. He and members of his web design class at the University of Houston created our professional website. Vice Governor, Sandra Sauers, has provided leadership and vision for our society since its founding. Recording Secretary Kelly Sharer has taken the minutes remotely and participates in Mayflower activities with her daughter. We welcome a new board member, Randy Breese, our Corresponding secretary.

It was good to meet again in person during the Triennial Mayflower Congress in Plymouth this past September after not being able to do so during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sheryl Schilling's family hosted a hybrid meeting on Monday, September 11 at their Airbnb rental. Those unable to attend in person met with us via Zoom, with David Schilling handling the technology. Members in attendance came from Texas, Florida, Iowa, and the Netherlands. Suggestions at the meeting included having new members submit articles for the newsletter introducing themselves and learning how we are all connected through Peter Brown.

Like our Pilgrim ancestors, our society has met and overcome challenges. In the past years, we have experienced the COVID-19 pandemic, hurricanes, personal health issues, and more. Despite this, our society continues to grow. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have suggestions and ideas for projects to advance our Society.

Elizabeth "Libby" Werner, PPBS Governor

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The Pilgrim Peter Brown Society Newsletter is annual publication of news for the Society membership and those with an interest in our Society and Pilgrim Peter Brown. The purpose of the Pilgrim Peter Brown Society Newsletter is to provide information that relates to Pilgrim Peter Brown and his descendants. The Pilgrim Peter Brown Society is not responsible for individual opinions or viewpoints printed in this publication. Contributors must receive permission to publish photos from each subject prior to submission. Original materials from this newsletter may not be reprinted without the permission of the Pilgrim Peter Brown Society.

Sheryl Schilling, Editor - sschilling1620@gmail.com

Thank you to Mark Hassenpflug for proofreading the newsletter and to our webmaster David Schilling for technical assistance.

THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE

Plymouth, Massachusetts

By Elizabeth Werner, PPBS Governor



The opening ceremony of the 43rd Mayflower Triennial Congress in September, 2023 took place at the Church of the Pilgrimage. Located on Plymouth's Town Square, this church traces its history as a Congregational church back to the original covenant

the Pilgrims made in 1606 in Scrooby, England. John Robinson became the pastor during the Pilgrims' stay in Leiden, Holland. He was to accompany them to the New World only if the majority of the congregation could leave Holland on their first emigration. The majority could not leave Holland, so Robinson stayed behind and died without being able to rejoin the congregation in Plymouth. Elder Willam Brewster served as the congregation's spiritual leader until 1629.

Desiring to worship God according to scripture rather than the dictates imposed by the Church of England, the Pilgrims separated from the established church and were looked upon unfavorably by the Crown. The Puritans who settled in Salem and Boston never officially separated from the Church of England were more favored. Although the Pilgrims did not come to the New World to establish a democracy, they desired to be free of any church hierarchy and created a church governance where the congregation decided church policy. Each member had an equal vote in important matters affecting their church. The Pilgrims expressed these principles when they drew up the Mayflower Compact, a foundational document of American democracy. These principles of church government and self-rule by the congregation gave rise to Congregationalism. The Pilgrim church grew and expanded. New congregations formed as the original Pilgrims, their descendants, and more settlers arrived and moved to areas outside of Plymouth. In 1801, a split occurred in the Plymouth congregation. The newly installed Rev. James Kendall espoused a liberal theology that affirmed the Unitarian view of God as one deity and not triune. On October 1, 1801, fifty-two members who held the Trinitarianism belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, withdrew to form their own congregation. The original church came to be known as the First Parish Church and stayed in the Unitarian movement. This church is now the Mayflower Meeting House, owned by the General Society of Mayflower

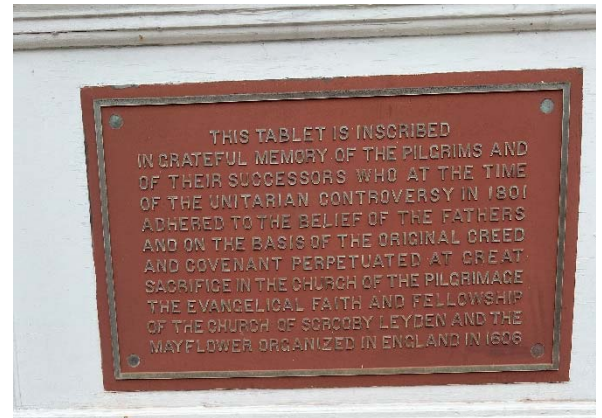


Descendants, which are making it into a museum to tell Pilgrim history. Those who left formed the Third Church of Christ in Plymouth.

In 1840, the congregation of the Third Church dedicated a new edifice on Plymouth's town square near the site of the Pilgrims' first meeting house. The congregation started to call themselves the Church of the Pilgrimage. The name became official after a vote in 1870. In 1948, members of the Church of the Pilgrimage, voted to join the newly formed United Church of Christ (a merger of the Evangelical Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches). The denomination became official in 1957.

While the Church of the Pilgrimage is proud of its Pilgrim heritage, the congregation does not fixate itself on its

past. True to its name, the church sees their Christian life as a pilgrimage. They remain open to new ideas and welcome all to worship with them. Their statement of faith declares that "that each person is unique and valuable" and "each person is on a spiritual journey and that each of us is at a different stage of that journey." The Church of the Pilgrimage continues to affirm the words of John Robinson when the Pilgrim left Holland for the New World, "There is more truth and light to break forth from God's holy word."¹



NOTES: The history and beliefs of the Church of the Pilgrimage come from two of the church's

webpages:

<https://www.churchofthepilgrimage.org/detailed-history>

<https://www.churchofthepilgrimage.org/what-we-believe>

THE 1749 COURT HOUSE & MUSEUM

By Sheryl Schilling

Across from the Church of the Pilgrimage stands a two story white clapboard building that was once used as the old Plymouth Court House. It stands on the site of Edward Winslow's first home and where the first courthouse was built by the colony settlers in 1670.² I have walked passed this building many times and did not realize it was a little gem of Plymouth history. Known as the longest used municipal building in America, it is now a museum containing an 1828 fire engine, the town hearse, many interesting artifacts, displays and according to my son who ventured upstairs a dismantled gallows! Their Facebook page is not updated often but has some lovely old photos and maps of Plymouth. Here is the link to check it out: <https://www.facebook.com/1749CourtHouseMuseum/>

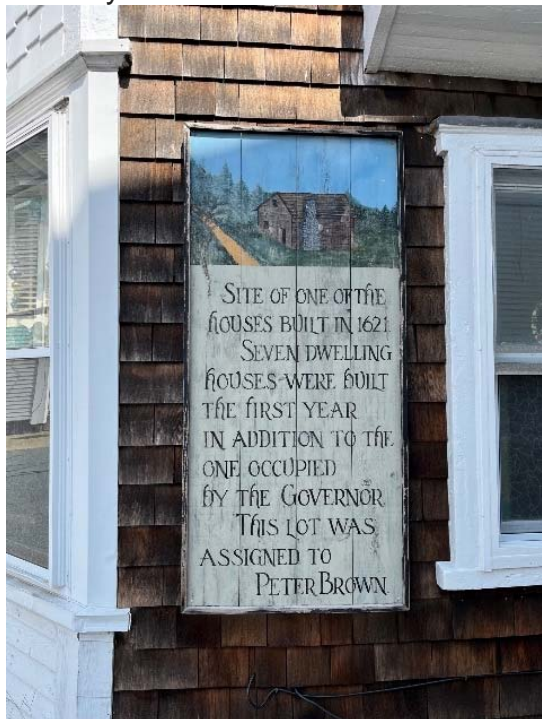


¹ Words of John Robinson - Christian Classics Ethereal Library (ccel.org)

² Craig S. Chartier, "Of Plymouth Plantation" Predicting the Location of the Original Plymouth Village, Its Extent, and its Houses," PARP May 2016, www.plymoutharch.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/leyden-st-houses.pdf

Stumbling upon the Peter Brown Family Homestead By Julie Wilson, PPBS member, Netherlands

On a recent visit to Plymouth, I was strolling along Leyden Street on a hot September day looking for the Mayflower Society House— turns out I was in the wrong place, it was a few blocks over— and I suddenly happened upon a wooden sign showing the original location of a house built in 1621 where Peter Brown and his family lived! Lo and behold, I had stumbled upon the homestead of our Mayflower ancestor!



Most hilarious was the peace sign in the window to the right, and next to that, another one: “Beware of Hippies!” Who knows who lives in the modern building located on the site today! The hippie generation is becoming a rare breed, dwindling in numbers. We Peter Brown descendants are also a rare breed, as amongst Mayflower descendants there are only a few of us. But I think our numbers are on the increase.

To all you Peter Brown cousins out there — Peace man!



Editor’s note: Julie is our first international member! We were excited to meet her in Plymouth for our triannual meeting. The sign Julie ran into has been on the side of this home for quite a long time and may have been touched up for the 400th anniversary. I understand that the home is currently a multi-unit rental property. There is a photo of the sign on Wikipedia (Peter Browne) that was taken in 2009 and was looking rather worn out at that time. I have made inquiries over the years about who manages the sign and have not yet discovered the answer to that.

DO NOT BE MISLED! Peter Brown of Windsor, CT is not a son of Peter Brown the Mayflower passenger. Descendants of Peter are through his two daughters, thus finding a “Brown” or “Browne” ancestor will not necessarily lead you to Pilgrim Peter Brown.

Mayflower Descendant 23:76; Mayflower Descendant 43:14 and Mayflower Families through Five Generations 7:14

PPBS Member Surnames Back Nine Generations from Peter:

Alger, Allen, Bedford, Benson, Bonney, Booth, Botcher, Brown, Byars, Byram, Carter, Caswell, Chase, Churchill, Colwell, Curtis, Doggett, Doughty, Dunham, Durfee, Edson, Elliott, Esten/Easton, Emerson, Fuller, Greenman, Hack, Harlow, Hart, Hayward, Hilburn/Hilbourn, Hunt, Kearns, Keene, King, Krohn, Macomber, Packard, Paine, Plumley, Randall, Raymond, Rickard, Sackett, Shaw, Short, Smith, Snow, Taylor, Tinkham, Tomson/Thompson, Vaughan, Whiting

Meet the PPBS Board

Officers:

Elizabeth “Libby” Werner

Governor

Sandra Sauers

Assistant Governor

Mark Hassenpflug

Treasurer

Kelly Sharer

Recording Secretary

Randy Breese

Corresponding Secretary

Sheryl Schilling

Historian

Our PPBS board & members out & about in Plymouth, September 2023

Libby Werner and Sandy Sauers in the Mayflower Society garden (top left); David Schilling, our webmaster trying out a rather large Adirondack chair (top right); Sandy Sauers (bottom left) at Pilgrim Hall holding a replica of Peter Brown’s mug. I believe you can order these but I heard the price is quite high. Contact Pilgrim Hall if you are interested in obtaining one. The 2023 PPBS triannual meeting was in person & via Zoom. We met at an Airbnb close to the cemetery. Left to right – Sheryl Schilling, Sandy Sauers, David Schilling, Julie Wilson, Libby Werner and her husband Michael. Members who attended via Zoom were Randy Breese, Mark Hassenpflug and Kelly Sharer.



Pilgrim Peter Brown Society

Sheryl Schilling, Editor/Historian

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Change Service Requested

Contact the Society through our website: www.pilgrimpeterbrownsociety.org