

# THE PILGRIM PETER BROWN SOCIETY

FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 6, 2014

**ISSUE 5**

**JANUARY 2017**

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### WELCOME TO 2017—LIST OF GOALS FOR THE PILGRIM PETER BROWN SOCIETY

**FIND NEW MEMBERS—We want all current Pilgrim Peter Brown Society Members to sign up one or more member. Family members can join even if they have not yet proven to Peter Brown. This would be a non-lineage member. When this member does prove to Peter Brown, the membership would change to lineage and a new certificate would be completed. There would not be a second membership fee.**

**RECRUIT FROM YOUR MAYFLOWER COLONY—When you attend your chapter meetings, find out who has Peter Brown as their ancestor and ask them to check out our website or contact a Board Member for information.**

**CURRENT MEMBERS BECOME INVOLVED WITH YOUR PILGRIM PETER BROWN SOCIETY— We will be electing new Board Members in September 2017, so let us know if you would like to be nominated and for what position. Send us articles or stories of interest for the Newsletter. Let the editor of the Newsletter know what you would like to see published. Get Involved.**

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Editor—Sandra Sauers

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Certificates were mailed out to all new members. Please advise if any corrections are required.

The Board Members welcome all of our new members and thank you for your patience in the process of sending them to you as much as was required to start a new Society. We hope you are pleased with the final certificates.

### **Members Feedback for PPBS Meeting in September 2017**

Members we need for you to get involved with PPBS. Our meeting will be held in Plymouth, Massachusetts during the National Convention in September 2017. Please send an email to our Corresponding Secretary, Elizabeth Werner at [ehwclw@wowway.com](mailto:ehwclw@wowway.com) to advise if you will be at the meeting or if you would like to run for a position on the Board. More information concerning the 2017 National Convention as well as the meeting place for PPBS will be sent out in January 2017.

### **Newsletter**

We would like our current members to contribute information and articles to the Newsletter. It could be an article about your heritage and how you found the information to become a member of the National Mayflower Society or PPBS. You can contact Sandra Sauers at [s.sauers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.sauers@sbcglobal.net) for further information or to send your article. Please visit our website for additional information. PPBS is also on Facebook.

### **PPBS Members—Important Announcement for 2017**

#### **General Congress 2017**

General Congress will be held in Plymouth, Massachusetts on September 8-13, 2017.

The two days of business meetings will be held on Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 11 and 12th, with the closing banquet Tuesday evening.

We are excited to announce a new venue for our banquet. General Congress 2017 closing banquet will be held at the beautiful Indian Pond Country Club in Kingston, MA - just up the road from Plymouth!

Details on other meetings and tours will be announced early next year. If you have any questions, you can email [CongressInfo@TheMayflowerSociety.org](mailto:CongressInfo@TheMayflowerSociety.org).

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A Pilgrim Peter Brown Society Meeting will be held during the General Congress. We will send date, time and place of our meeting before September. If you plan on attending, please email Elizabeth Werner at [ehwclw@wowway.com](mailto:ehwclw@wowway.com).

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## **MAYFLOWER 400TH ANNIVERSARY**

Many activities will be offered for the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower voyage. Mayflower II is currently being refurbished and will be in dry dock at Mystic Seaport until 2019. The campaign to "Save our Ship" is ongoing. A great deal of repair is required before Mayflower II can be brought back to Plymouth. Please make a donation no matter how small to help with the huge cost to make these repairs. This is our heritage and we need to keep Mayflower II in Plymouth so that this legacy can be shared with the millions of tourist who will visit the ship in future years.



### **MAYFLOWER STATE AND LOCAL CHAPTERS**

What does your local or state Mayflower chapter have planned for 2020? Let us know and we will post it in our newsletter and Facebook.

Houston Colony in Texas is working with the Houston Museum to have a Pilgrim display at the end of 2019. This will exciting for the Houston Colony as the museum ranks at the top of all museum's in the United States. Hundreds of thousands of students attend special classes each year.

We encourage all local and state Mayflower chapters to work with their community to have a special display or project for or 400th year anniversary.

### **EDUCATION IN THE CLASSROOMS**

Several chapters have interpreters that go into the classrooms to talk about the Pilgrims and the Mayflower voyage. If your chapter does not do this, please encourage them to become involved. Texas has at least two chapters that do the Pilgrim Mini Museum Boxes. Houston Colony has such a program and as Educational Chairman in this chapter, I have put together our own Pilgrim Mini Museum Boxes. I then contact elementary schools to make arrangements for the school to use the Pilgrim Museum Boxes for a certain period of time. The boxes include lesson plans, graphics, displays, books and Pilgrim and Indian toys, and much more. The elementary school teacher or librarian will be able to use the materials to create a learning lesson for their students about the Pilgrims. If your local or state chapter would like more information, please contact [s.sauers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.sauers@sbcglobal.net).

## WHAT WAS IT LIKE THE FIRST WINTER IN PLYMOUTH?

(If you said cold you would be correct)

The Pilgrims arrived in the New World during the winter, making it very difficult for them to find food and build shelters. Many of the Pilgrims were ill from the hard voyage and lack of good food and water. The passengers on the *Mayflower*, which were the Pilgrims and the Strangers who were the called this because they were not part of the church members all drank ale (beer) as water was not clean to drink while on the ship. There was no bathing unless you used salt water from the ocean. Clothes were probably cleaned with the salt water as well. Rain water would have given them some fresher water but otherwise the passengers had to be smelly, and thirsty for fresh drinking water. This was the reason they needed to get onto land quickly or many more of the passengers would not live. More than ½ of the passengers did not make it through the voyage and first Winter on land. The remaining Pilgrims were faced with great hardship during the first year at Plymouth.

On 28 December 1620, the Pilgrims assigned out house-plots to the 19 family groups--each family was responsible for building their own house, as well as supplying labor to build community storehouses, a defensive fort, fences and sheds. They were assigned land plots that were 50 feet deep. The width of the lot was about 8 feet multiplied by the number of members in the family--so a family of six would have received a plot of land approximately 50 feet by 48 feet. But without the time, good weather, and enough manpower to quickly build a house, many of the Pilgrims continued to live onboard the *Mayflower* throughout the winter. A year later (in December 1621), *Mayflower* passenger Edward Winslow wrote a letter in which he said "we have built seven dwelling-houses, and four for the use of the plantation." In 1622, the Pilgrims built a fence around the colony for their better defense--the perimeter was nearly half a mile, and the fence was about 8 to 9 feet high. Ref: [MayflowerHistory.Com](http://MayflowerHistory.Com)

Due to the weather, the Pilgrims were not able to complete more than a few homes.

In late 1623, Emmanuel Altham wrote a letter from Plymouth to his brother back in England, and reported that there were about twenty houses, but only about five of them were "very fair and pleasant."

In 1624, Captain John Smith recorded that Plymouth had about 32 houses, "whereof 7 were burnt the last winter."

In 1628, Plymouth was visited by the Dutchman named Isaac de Rasieres, and he wrote a more detailed description of what he saw:

New Plymouth lies on the slope of a hill stretching east towards the sea-coast, with a broad street about a cannon shot of 800 feet long, leading down the hill; with a crossing in the middle, ... The houses are constructed of clapboards, with gardens also enclosed behind and at the sides with clapboards, so that their houses and courtyards are arranged in very good order, with a stockade against sudden attack; and at the ends of the streets there are three wooden gates. ... Upon the hill they have a large square house, with a flat roof, built of thick sawn planks stayed with oak beams, upon the top of which they have six cannon. Ref: [MayflowerHistory.com](http://MayflowerHistory.com).



Courtesy Plimoth Plantation



The first landing of the Pilgrims, 1620. [Lucy, Charles, 1814-1873](#) (Artist)

Issued 1856

## THE QUEST FOR FAMILY HISTORY by Mark Hassenplug

My maternal Grandmother moved into my childhood home when I was 5 yrs. old following the death of her husband, James Matthew Kearns. Being such a major part of our family life for her over the next 15 years her knowledge of family and our combined family history fascinated me even as a teenager. Her husband (my maternal grandfather) had been born on Ellis Island to Irish immigrants and her and my Mother told me and my 4 siblings how we were related to Mayflower families, but not sure which ones! Typical of most Americans our ancestry was made up on many countries and descents. My father's family was German and Scottish, my mother's was Irish, Scottish, English. The thread in common was that all were proud to be Americans and proud of their roots. For whatever reason I was fascinated by such stories so I took notes of what my parents and Grandmother told us about families and relationships. I grew up in essentially the same town area of Vermont near where my Grandmother Susie Snow had been born back in the 1800's, and where she and her husband lived. Most of the families in her line had come from the general area of New York, Vermont and Massachusetts, excluding of course her husband's line who had come to America through New York from Ireland. In fact, her family line of Snow is the same family that the Mt Snow ski area in Vermont is named after. Reuben Snow was her cousin, and the land owner of the tract of land where his farm house sat is now the ski area's base lodge.

Because I had spent the time to talk with them I also was aware of where most family members were buried and my mother had even created a family history and genealogy book for us 5 kids. I had some excellent background that would help me in my own quest.

Fast forward 20 years and I had started creating computerized formal genealogy reports on our family and became our own family historian. The death of my own parents 10 & 17 years ago only served to increase my own desire to piece together our history. Being a computer programmer helped me immensely at weaving around through all the genealogy sites as they became available and connecting with other family members to fill in the gaps. However, like most on this journey I hit roadblocks that I could not seem to get past. I had found that we were related to John and Priscilla Alden through the Snow line but I could fill in enough gaps to document it.

I had published a large part of the Snow family history on Ancestry.com and one day in 2011 received an email from a Sandra Sauers indicating we might be related. She was surprised to find a person within the Snow family line (even though my last name is Hassenplug) and we started communicating about this. And she was from Houston Texas, almost as far away from New England as you could be! It eventually turned out that we shared the same Great grandparent's in the Snow line that made us cousins. When she discovered I knew where family members had been buried, along with her own research; we combined our efforts and she and her daughter Sheryl Schilling made a visit to New Hampshire where I live and then we made road trips to Vermont, New York, and Massachusetts tracking down the grave sites , birth and death records sufficient for us to jointly have full documentation necessary to become Mayflower descendant members.

Many people work hard at tracking down their roots and histories and sometimes we go it alone not realizing how others could be on this same discovery process. It was immensely helpful to have someone as interested as myself to jointly piece together the puzzles as well as just plain fun to connect to other family members you did not event know. That is what our society is all about.

**WEBSITES**

[www.themayflowersociety.org](http://www.themayflowersociety.org)

[www.plimoth.org](http://www.plimoth.org)

[www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org](http://www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org)

[www.mayflowerhistory.com](http://www.mayflowerhistory.com)

Facebook.com (PilgrimPeterBrownSociety)

**PILGRIM FAMILY SOCIETY WEBSITES:**

[www.pilgrimpeterbrownsociety.org/](http://www.pilgrimpeterbrownsociety.org/)

[www.alden.org/](http://www.alden.org/)

[www.isaacallerton.com/](http://www.isaacallerton.com/)

[www.franciscookesociety.org/](http://www.franciscookesociety.org/)

[www.edward-doty.org/](http://www.edward-doty.org/)

[www.thefullersociety.org/](http://www.thefullersociety.org/)

[cromartiefamilyassociation.com/](http://cromartiefamilyassociation.com/)

[www.pilgrimjohnhowlandsociety.org/](http://www.pilgrimjohnhowlandsociety.org/)

[www.thomasrogerssociety.com/](http://www.thomasrogerssociety.com/)

[www.soulekindred.org/](http://www.soulekindred.org/)

[www.bartlettsociety.com/](http://www.bartlettsociety.com/)

[www.delanokindred.us/](http://www.delanokindred.us/)

[www.harlowfamily.com/](http://www.harlowfamily.com/)

[www.thepilgrimwilliamwhitesociety.org/](http://www.thepilgrimwilliamwhitesociety.org/)

**[www.winslowheritagesociety.elisting.us/](http://www.winslowheritagesociety.elisting.us/)**

Suggested Books and websites:

**Genealogy.com** (Online) Terms of Use are Printed on Website)

Owned by Ancestry.com but you can view the ancestry of Peter Browne as well as other Pilgrims that have been done by private individuals. Good Research.

**MayflowerHistory.com.** Caleb Johnson is renowned for his research ability. Very informative and Mr. Johnson is well known for his thoroughness in getting the facts. This editor has used his material (with permission) in our Newsletter.

**Pilgrims Voices** by Connie and Peter Roop

**Mourt's Relation** a Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth by Dwight B. Heath.