

# IOWA HAWKEYE

Newsletter of the Iowa Society of Mayflower Descendants



## Compact Day Meeting

The Iowa Compact Day meeting will be held Saturday, November 4, 2023, at the Machine Shed Restaurant, 11151 Hickman Road, in Urbandale at 11:00 a.m.

Lunch will be turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, and vegetable of the day; the main course will be served individually plated. The fixins' served family style, will be cottage cheese, cole slaw, and bread. Beverages included will be coffee, tea, milk, or soda. Stuffing and gravy will not be included on individuals' plates for those who want a gluten free option. The cost of the meal will be \$21. Lunch will be served at 12:00 pm.

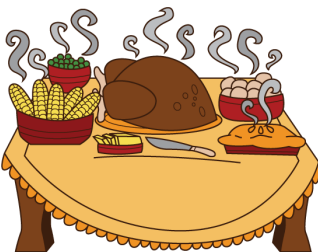
**Following lunch, guest speaker Kate Levasseur will present "Tombstones & Tales of Woodland & Jordan Cemeteries".**

You are welcome to bring a guest. Reservations by email are preferred. Email name(s) of attendees and number of gluten free meals, if applicable, to

[lowacaptain@iowamayflowersociety.org](mailto:lowacaptain@iowamayflowersociety.org) or send a text message to 515-491-1270.

We need your reservation by October 30, 2023, so that we can provide a final count to the Machine Shed Restaurant.

**We hope you'll be able to attend.**



### Iowa Mayflower Society Officers 2023- 2026

Governor -  
Judy Stumbo

Deputy Governor -  
Mark Church

Secretary -  
Lisa Lang

Treasurer -  
Gerald M. Graves

Historian –  
Open\*

Assistant Historian -  
Shawn Albaugh Kleppe

Captain -  
Jackie Peters

Elder -  
Kenneth R. Callison, Sr

Surgeon -  
Barbara Clayton, RN

Counselor -  
Bernadine McGuire

Governor Emeritus -  
Maureen D. Wilson

## MEETING OF THE 43rd GENERAL CONGRESS OF THE GENERAL SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

The 43rd General Congress of the GSMD was held September 8-13, 2023 in Plymouth, MA. Iowa members Ken Callison, Assistant General, and Bernadine McGuire, Counselor, represented the Iowa Society at the Congress. Ken Callison was elected Deputy Governor General, and Linda Cassmann-Randall was elected Assistant General, for the Iowa Society for 2023-2026.

Former Counsellor General Lisa Pennington was elected Governor General of the GSMD. Her vision is to tell the Mayflower story through the completion of renovations and the creation of a visitor's center to educate the public at the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse in Plymouth. She hopes to accomplish this during her administration. We are pleased to report that Governor General Pennington accepted our invitation to attend the May 2026 Iowa Mayflower Society Meeting.

The Mayflower Society House in Plymouth has been beautifully restored. Attendees at the Congress were permitted to tour the house. All were required to wear booties over their shoes to help preserve the house. The GSMD voted to increase their application fee from \$125 to \$150 effective January 1, 2024. Even with this increase, the GSMD will continue to lose money on processing applications. But this will help reduce the loss. Effective January 1, 2024, the application fee for Iowa original applications will be \$200 and the Iowa supplemental application fee will be \$150. GSMD suspends application processing in the second half of December to focus on year-end activities. If you wish to apply for membership at the lower fee, your application must be finalized, all required information, acceptable proof documentation, and application fee, submitted to the Iowa Historian, [iowahistorian@iowamayflower.org](mailto:iowahistorian@iowamayflower.org) no later than December 8, 2023. Applications submitted after that date will be subject to an increased application fee.

### GSMD Society Officers:

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) elected officers for 2023-2026 at the 43rd Congress.

Governor General	Lisa H. Pennington, Esq.
Assistant Governor General	Jeff Stark
Secretary General	Martin "Marty" W. Beerman
Treasurer	Bart S. Henson
Historian General	Alexandra "Allie" Shires Golon
Counsellor General	James "Jim" J. Wheaton, Esq.
Elder General	Reverend Michael R. Denney
Captain General	Collier S. Wiese
Surgeon General	David Lowell Nash
Members At Large	Beth Lambright (OR) for the West Jane Schleinzer (IL) and Chris Schlosser (WI) for the East

Results of numerous proposed amendments to the constitution and bylaws voted on at Congress will be reported in the next Mayflower Quarterly.

## Governor's Greeting:

Welcome to the Fall edition of the Iowa Mayflower Society newsletter. Temperatures are cooler, goldenrod is in full bloom, the days are shorter, you may be enjoying football tailgates, bonfires, and the many pumpkin spice flavored options! Take a moment to imagine September 1620, four hundred and three years ago, what it may have been like when our ancestors crowded aboard the Mayflower and set sail from England bound for the New World. There were no bathrooms, fresh water, nor change of clothes on board. Their meals consisted of salted meat and dry, hard biscuits. The passengers used saltwater from the ocean to wash their hands and faces. On November 9, 1620, sixty-six days later, after a long, miserable trip, they landed on the shore of Massachusetts where it was the beginning of winter and extremely cold. The passengers lived aboard the Mayflower until March of 1621. Only 51 of the 102 passengers on the Mayflower had children and you've proven that you descend from one (or more) of the 51. Amazingly, just 12 to 16 generations later, an estimated 35 million people can trace their ancestry to one of these 51 Pilgrims. You can be proud that you descend from these early individuals who laid the foundation for the American democracy we enjoy today. GSMD membership spans 54 societies across the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia.

## Historian Update:

Year to date we've welcomed 45 new members to the Iowa Mayflower Society. At present, there are 12 applications in our pending queue. Currently there are 379 active members in the Society. The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) has implemented many process improvements in the past year that have significantly improved turnaround time for review and decisioning. Currently, a decision on applications is received in 3 months or less. One of the most significant changes implemented this year is a transition from a paper-based application process to electronic submission of applications. All applications and supporting documentation are uploaded digitally to Plymouth. Duplicate paper copies of proof documents have been replaced with pdf or jpg files, no more mailing paper to the Historian, no more trips to the post office to get packets in the mail, and much improved turnaround times! The Historian position for the Iowa Mayflower Society remains open. If you have interest in assuming that role, please contact Judy Stumbo, Governor, at [governor@iowamayflower.org](mailto:governor@iowamayflower.org). Training and reference materials will be provided.

## Junior Membership:

As a reminder, any member in good standing in the Iowa Mayflower Society may make application for a junior membership on behalf of any person under eighteen (18) years of age who is related to a member of the Society by blood through the line through which such member was approved by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Presently there are 233 junior members. When a Junior Member turns 18, they can make application for regular membership by providing the required lineage proof documentation and paying the required application fee. Currently, 90 junior members are between the ages of 18 and 25. If transfer is not completed by age 25, they will be dropped by the Iowa Mayflower Society. Junior members 18 or older should contact the Historian at [iowahistorian@iowamayflower.org](mailto:iowahistorian@iowamayflower.org) if they wish to make application for adult membership.

## Minutes of the Iowa Society of Mayflower Descendants Annual Meeting of May 6, 2023

The Iowa Society of Mayflower Descendants met May 6, 2023 at the Machine Shed in Urbandale, IA.

Governor Linda Cassmann-Randall called the meeting to order.

Invocation given by Elder Ken Callison, Sr.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Captain Tom Jacobson.

Members introduced themselves and their guests.

Secretary's Minutes - minutes of the November 5, 2022, Compact meeting were approved as written in the Spring Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report - in the absence of Gerald Graves, Treasurer, Ken Callison, Sr. reported that there is \$27,806.50 in the Iowa Society's account. Judy Stumbo moved, and Jackie Peters seconded the motion to approve the Treasurer's report.

Motion passed. The treasurer's report is attached to the minutes.

Historian's Report - Judy Stumbo stated that 29 applications had been approved. There are 8 applications and 1 supplemental pending. There are 364 active members in the Iowa Society. She also stated that Plymouth has Made improvements in processing time, now at about three months.

Junior Historian Report - no report given.

Necrology-Ken Callison, Sr. read the names of recently deceased members.

Roger Peterson	Francis Rouen II	Gertrude Ruth Hahn
Ruth Arnold	William Edward Todd	James Fitzpatrick
Carrol Brase	Theodore Hutinson	Leroy Soule
Deborah Wells	Onalee Arnold	

Lunch - Linda Cassmann-Randall dismissed the meeting for lunch at 11:55 a.m.

Elder Ken Callison, Sr. said the prayer before the meal was served.

Captain Tom Jacobson read the Mayflower Compact.

Tom Jacobson conducted the Roll Call of Ancestors:

John Alden 3	John Billington 3	William Bradford 3	Love Brewster 1
Mary Brewster 1	William Brewster 3	Peter Browne 1	James Chilton 2
Mary Chilton 1	Francis Cooke 9	Edward Doty 3	Francis Eaton 1
Edward Fuller 2	Dr. Samuel Fuller 1	Constance Hopkins 2	Mrs. Elizabeth (Fisher) Hopkins 2
John Howland 3	Priscilla Mullins 2	William Mullins 2	Joseph Rogers 2
Thomas Rogers 1	Henry Samson 1	George Soule 5	Myles Standish 1
Elizabeth Tilley 1	John Tilley 1	Mrs. Joan Rogers Hurst Tilley 1	Richard Warren 5
William White 1			

Francis Cooke had the most descendants present with 9 members.

Election of Officers

Ken Callison, Sr. presented the following slate of candidates for officers.

Nominated, not elected, election to be held at Congress in Plymouth Sept 8-13th.

Deputy Governor General (DGG) - Kenneth R. Callison, Sr.

Assistant General (AG) – Linda E. Cassmann –Randall

Elected:

Governor – Judy Stumbo

Deputy Governor – Mark Church

Secretary – Lisa Lang

Treasurer – Gerald M. Graves

Historian – Randy Breese

Assistant Historian – Shawn Albraugh Kleppe

Captain – Jackie Peters

Surgeon – Barbara Clayton, RN

Elder – Kenneth R.Callison, Sr.

Governor Emeritus – Maureen D. Wilson

Counselor – Bernadine McGuire

Juniors – Mary Ann Eckhart

Newsletter Editor – vacant

Elise James moved that the nominated slate be elected. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Program - Tom Milligan presented the program titled “Grant Wood, Prairie Rebel”.

He played the role of Grant Wood with visual props to enhance the presentation.

New slate of officers installed.

Judy Stumbo, new Governor, adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

The Compact Meeting will be held at the Machine Shed in Urbandale on November 4, 2023.

### Website Revised



If you have not had a chance to view our revised Iowa Mayflower Society website, we invite you to do so. You will find information about our upcoming meetings, the forms needed to renew your membership, Mayflower ancestor histories, links to the General Mayflower Society, and other Iowa Mayflower Society connections.

Visit us at [www.iowamayflower.org](http://www.iowamayflower.org)

**Board of Assistants Meeting  
Wednesday, August 2, 2023  
Altoona Perkins Restaurant, Des Moines, Iowa**

**Meeting Called to order at 10:04 by Governor Judy Stumbo**

Attendees: Judy Stumbo, Jackie Peters, Lisa Lang, Ken Callison, Gerald Graves, Mark Church via Zoom, Jill Brewer via Zoom, Jim Murphy via Zoom, Linda Cassmann-Randall via Zoom, and Bernie McGuire via Zoom.

**Secretary's Report - Lisa Lang**

Jackie Peters moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ken Callison seconded. Minutes from the May 6, 2023 Annual Meeting approved unanimously. These were the final minutes submitted by Barb Gregerson, previous Secretary. Thank you Barb for your many years of service as Secretary!

**Treasurer's Report - Gerald Graves**

There currently are twenty-two, 50 year members/life members for whom the Society pays dues. There were no new life members to report.

**Reimbursement (Linda and John) May speaker overcharge - Gerald Graves**

Speaker's normal fee is \$300. Linda Cassmann-Randall paid the \$300 fee to the speaker from her own funds. The Iowa Society needs to reimburse Linda \$300. \$100 of the fee was supposed to be paid by the IA Arts Council, but they ran out of money to help with fees. John Butler made a \$100 donation to make up for the fee that was supposed to be paid by the Iowa Arts Council Thank you to John!

**Historian Report - Judy Stumbo**

Ended last year with 329 members. There are 42 new members, we lost 35 members last year, but 8 reinstated. Total membership as of August 1st, 2023 is 377 members. What a wonderful increase in membership! 4 pending originals at Plymouth right now. 1 pending supplemental.

**Historian Candidates?**

No candidates at this time. Does anyone have any suggestions for this position? Ken Callison suggested Marty Roberts who does N & S Dakota applications (she used to live in Iowa). If anyone has suggestions or is interested in this position, please contact Judy Stumbo. The position of Historian involves helping people with their applications and sending them to Plymouth.

**Pipeline Report/Potential Application Fee Increase - Judy Stumbo**

All documents for applications are being submitted electronically, not paper.

Right now we have 18 people in the pipeline (people who are interested in joining), paid \$75 or sent in preliminary forms. The draft application is done and given back to the person with highlighted areas where they need sources of proof. When we get to 4-6 months after a person has been in the pipeline, the person is contacted to see if they are still interested. If there is no response or continuation, then they go to our "cold case" files.

What if Plymouth raises the application fee from \$125 to \$175?

Do we notify the people in the pipeline before Dec. 15th that fees will potentially be increased?

The General Society is going to vote on the increase in application fees at the September meeting, but the increase will not go into effect until January 1, 2024. When people find out the application fee will increase on January 1, there will potentially be an increase in the number of applications because people will want to get theirs in before the fee goes up. It was decided to notify the people in the pipeline and tell them that fees will potentially be increased. They will need to submit the increase of fees, if not done with their application before the fee increase date. Some are in favor of application fees, rather than increasing dues. Plymouth said even with the increase, they would still be losing money on applications. Ken Callison and Bernie McGuire will be at Plymouth to vote on this issue.

**Dues Increase for Iowa Mayflower Society?**

With digital submission of applications, it does slightly reduce costs for us. Previously we had expenses of special paper, envelopes, postage, etc. However, we do still have costs for sending welcome letters, booklets, certificates, envelopes and postage and first year's dues to Plymouth (\$35). This is for new members only.

If Plymouth goes to \$175 for application fees and supplemental fees, do we want to continue the \$50 that we currently charge new members? Fees for an application would be \$225. If the increase happens, we will need to explain to applicants that as a consequence of Plymouth raising fees, and that if they do not have a completed application by Dec 15, the fee will increase to \$225.

**Junior Membership Report - Jill Brewer**

Just getting acquainted with the materials, as she is the new person in this position.

### **November - 4th Meeting - Mark Church**

The Iowa Compact Day meeting will be held Saturday, November 4, 2023, at the Machine Shed Restaurant, 11151 Hickman Road, in Urbandale at 11:00 a.m. Guest speaker, Kate Levasseur will present "Tombstones & Tales of Woodland & Jordan Cemeteries".

She has not set a price for her presentation yet. We need to determine this in advance and report. Gerald Graves has suggested \$100-\$150 plus meals for an honorarium.

### **November 4th Menu - Mark Church**

Mark Church will investigate options for lunch at the Machine Shed and get back to us with prices.

### **November 4th Agenda - Judy Stumbo**

Judy would like direction for the agenda for the November 4th meeting. Gerald Graves said it is in the bylaws and Ken Callison said we should follow Roberts Rules of Order.

### **Directory - Shawn Albaugh Kleppe**

When we get a newly approved member, Shawn Albaugh Kleppe updates the directory and sends the new member a copy digitally.

### **Newsletter - James Murphy**

Mr. Murphy would like members to send info to him that you would like included in the newsletter. Please send soon, as Gerald Graves pointed out that according to the bylaws, it is required to have a copy of the renewal/dues form included in the Fall Newsletter. A current copy of mailing addresses to be used, needs to be sent to James Murphy. Master list shows who has requested digital or regular mail copies.

### **Website Revisions - James Murphy**

New website looks great! Thank you James for your work.

Gerald Grave suggested that people look at the site and make suggestions for edits. He presented a few edits. Please send edits/suggestions directly to James Murphy at [newsletter@iowamayflower.org](mailto:newsletter@iowamayflower.org)

Send them to James by August 11th, 2023. Revised website will be sent to the BoA via email to be approved before making the website live. We are shooting for a date of August 25th, 2023 to approve the website and make it live shortly thereafter.

### **Record Retention Policy - Judy Stumbo**

There are MANY boxes of records that take up a ton of room.

We now have access to "Virtual Vault". We can see the app and documents on this site of anyone who joined from Iowa. We also have a digital copy from Plymouth on a shared drive. Plymouth also has copies of all these files. So the question is, do we still need to keep all of these papers?

Ken suggested putting this on the agenda of the BoA in November as what to do with these paper copies and make a decision then. We will look at the bylaws and make an educated decision at that time, when we've had time to digest and think about what to do with these items.

### **Digital dues payment option (i.e. Venmo, VanCo, PayPal) - Judy/Gerald/All**

Can we give people an option to pay dues digitally? Some people do not use/write checks. Gerald Graves suggested VanCo owned by Wells Fargo. VanCo is used by many nonprofits, educational organizations and schools to make secure payments. We will need to have our new website live first to use this. Gerald will come up with a digital option for members to pay.

### **Scholarship Committee - All**

We do not currently have an application form for applying for this scholarship. It would be nice to form a scholarship committee to work on this. Scholarship winners can be a junior member or a relative of a current member who would sponsor you.

Linda Cassmann-Randall, Lisa & David Lang and Jill Brewer will come up with an application form.

### **Congress - Ken Callison/Bernie McGuire**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **New Business**

For the March meeting, Governor Judy Stumbo will be in Florida. We will have the meeting in Altoona with Judy joining via Zoom or all can meet via Zoom. A decision will be made at the November meeting.

Gerald Graves motioned to adjourn.

Jackie Peters seconded.

Motion passed.

**Meeting Adjourned at 12:05 p.m.**