

The Missouri Compact

Newsletter of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Missouri

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From the Governor's Quill

Greetings,

The Board of Assistants of the Missouri Society have been busy over the last few months. I would like to highlight a few ongoing matters where we would appreciate your assistance.

In order to better serve our members, we are in the process of finalizing a survey of our membership to confirm contact information. I am hopeful that, when you receive the survey, you will assist us in making sure our records are up to date. Please allow me to acknowledge the work of Joan McCready, Julia Jackson, Stacey Bohning, and Cara Vazquez with that process.

In addition, it is helpful, from time to time, to assess the ways that we can enhance the Missouri Society's educational activities and make membership more satisfying and rewarding. So, we will be contacting members to help us find ways to enhance the membership experience. Your input on this is needed so that we may better serve the interests of the membership and the Missouri Society's mission.



Governor Royce Barondes

Members have been sharing the reasons for joining the society in *The Missouri Compact*. As a fairly new member who has not met most members of the Missouri Society—I believe I joined in the fall of 2023—perhaps I should share my experience.

I am originally from New Hampshire, and I am the first in my immediate family to have joined one of the State societies. My mother and grandmother had done some genealogical work, but not taken it back, with the documentation the General Society requires, to 1620. To honor their memory, I decided to attempt to finish the undertaking. In that process, I received excellent assistance from our Historian Debra Hovis. And, as I expect is often the case, the research revealed some ancestors who had done remarkable things, and I came across a heartbreak turn of events.

I am a retired professor. In recent times in some quarters, particularly in academia, it has been in vogue to diminish the character and accomplishments of those whose efforts contributed to the founding of our country. My aversion to that posture was enhanced as I learned of and about my own ancestors. Joining, and agreeing to serve as the Governor of the Missouri Society, is part of the way that I may publicly honor our shared ancestors and their achievements. Perhaps your own reflection on why you joined the Society, and what you learned about your ancestors, will assist you in suggesting new ways to enhance the membership experience.

Warmest regards, Royce Barondes

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Upcoming Events

Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence Hosts Spring Luncheon

The Society's Spring Luncheon is on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 11:45 am at the Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO 64055. Lunch will start at 12:15 pm. Tickets must be purchased by April 19 and is limited to 40 persons. Please register early. The cost is \$25 and includes catering by Smokehouse Barbecue and a presentation by the Genealogy Library staff and a library tour following lunch. Go to https://donorbox.org/events/745742/steps/choose_tickets to register and pay online. Online registration will show how many tickets are available. You can also register via mail, but spaces may run out while your registration is in transit. If registering by mail, make your check payable to The Missouri Mayflower Society and mail to Dustin Peetz, State Treasurer, 209 Upper Muirfield Ct S, Saint Charles, MO 63304. Please include any guests names with your check so we may make name tags. Questions concerning the menu and dietary restrictions may be sent to governor@momayflower.org.

Introducing the New Missouri Compact Editors

If you read the previous issue of *The Missouri Compact*, you know that Editor Sumner Hunnewell said goodbye after several years of service. The Society thanks him for his dedicated service! A search was made throughout the Society for a new editor, and two members agreed to step in.

Stacey Bohning joined the society as a descendant of William Bradford in January 2024. She lives in St. Peters with her 76-year-old widowed father. She has a Bachelor's of Journalism from Mizzou and a Master's in Cybersecurity Management from WashU. She has worked at Mastercard for 10 years where her current role is Senior Business Operations Engineer and Process Lead.

Cara Vazquez joined the society as a descendant of George Soule in the fall of 2023. She lives in O'Fallon with her husband, Ricky, and their two cats, Neko and Bella. She has a Bachelor of Science in Entomology with a specialization in Urban Pest Management, and a Master's and PhD in Entomology from the University of Florida. She has worked at Bayer for almost 13 years and is currently the Plant Transformation Hub Lead.

Cara shares how she discovered her Mayflower ancestor in this issue and Stacey will share her story next issue. Let us know how you discovered your Mayflower ancestor and we will include it in a future issue of the Compact!

How I Came to Find My Mayflower Ancestor

Julie Cara Congdon Vazquez

When I was in my early 20s, a friend once asked me where I was from. When I mentioned my surname, Congdon, they expressed curiosity about its origin, having never heard it before. However, aside from saying I was from Florida, I struggled to provide a meaningful answer. My friend looked at me with surprise and exclaimed, “You don’t know where you come from?!” This left me feeling a bit embarrassed. My maternal grandfather had done some genealogical work going back a few generations, but other than that, that was as far as my immediate family had looked into our family history.

During college, I created an Ancestry account to continue my grandfather’s work. However, as I transitioned from undergraduate studies to pursuing a doctorate, got married, and supported my husband during his deployment to Iraq, I found myself too preoccupied with daily life to focus on my family tree.

My husband and I both graduated and became entomologists. In 2016, I received a promotion, and it required us to relocate. So, we packed up our belongings and our two cats and moved to the beautiful state of Missouri. I felt like we had finally found our place to ‘settle’, and I began thinking about that lingering question: “Where do I come from?”

In 2021, I decided to visit my mom and aunt in Florida to gather their knowledge and document what they knew about our family history. While there, I discovered FamilySearch.org and created an account. I also dusted the cobwebs off my Ancestry account and got to work. I followed every ‘hint’ on both sites and out of pure luck found a family tree that included my Congdon lineage. I followed each generation and stopped at one in the 1600s that had a profile picture of a pilgrim. The name associated with the profile was George Soule. I quickly Googled his name and was completely surprised at what I read. *Could I really be a Mayflower descendant?* I then worked to verify each generation to see if the connection to Soule was correct.

I worked off and on over the next year and a half, collecting records in my spare time. In early 2023, I reached out to Historian Debra Hovis at the Missouri Mayflower Society. Debra was incredibly helpful, patiently answering all my questions. She invited me to submit my pre-application and told me that someone in the Congdon line had already applied to the Society and was approved! It was my fourth great-grandfather, Hiram Congdon. I was so surprised. Somehow, the family knowledge of our Mayflower heritage had been lost over time.

After completing the necessary paperwork, I was accepted into the Mayflower Society in the Fall of 2023. Additionally, I submitted supplemental applications for Francis Cooke and Richard Warren, both of which were approved in January 2024.

I recently became one of the co-editors of *The Missouri Compact* alongside Stacey Bohning. I look forward to continuing my genealogical journey and getting to know my fellow members of the Mayflower Society.



Cara Vazquez poses next to her Mayflower certificates.

Society News

Mayflower Toast for Forefather's Day

Sumner and Sylvia Hunnewell held a Mayflower toast in their home to celebrate Forefather's Day last December. Members were invited to their home where they toasted our ancestors over drinks and desserts. The toast is held on December 21 because it commemorates the landing of our Pilgrim Fathers in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on December 21, 1620. It was introduced in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1769. Thank you to the Hunnewells for hosting this tradition!



Sumner Hunnewell



Sylvia Hunnewell

New Record for Passenger James Chilton

New records of James Chilton, Mayflower passenger from Canterbury and Sandwich, Kent. Published in the *New England Historic Genealogical Register* (Spring 2024) v. 178, no. 2.

Clarke of Hartford and Haddam, Connecticut, author Jeff Bissey makes use of a letter written in 1651 by barrister William Lyngwood of Braintree, Essex, to his "Cosen Clarke," preserved among early land records of Connecticut, and the lawsuit in England mentioned in that letter and preserved among the Chancery papers of the (British) National Archives, to identify that cousin as William¹ Clarke of Hartford and Haddam.

In the next article, Sue Allan and Caleb Johnson detail **New Records of James Chilton, Mayflower Passenger from Canterbury and Sandwich, Kent**. Passengers on that famous ship, especially those with living descendants, have likely received more attention over the years than any other such cohort; but *Mayflower* specialists Allan and Johnson demonstrate that there remains more to be found. In this article, new details from the lives of James Chilton and his parents and grandparents are presented and combined with the results of previous work to provide an up-to-date summary of this family, an excellent companion to Sue Allan's *In Search of Mayflower Pilgrim James Chilton of Canterbury* (Boston: American Ancestors, 2024).

The following article shifts focus to 18th- and early 19th-century New England and New York. In **A Family for Roswell Rowley: Correcting the Family of Samuel Rowley**, author Kory L. Meyerink employs a systematic survey of Rowleys in and around Granville, Massachusetts to identify the parents and siblings of Roswell Rowley, a Revolutionary War soldier serving from that

Deadline Extended for Annual Scholarships

Our scholarship committee has extended the application deadline and will consider applications received by April 1, 2025. Scholarships are open to any high school senior who is a resident of the Missouri and a citizen of the United States, who is planning to attend an institution of higher learning in the fall of 2025. The Scholarships presently offered include one-time awards of \$1,500, \$1,000, and \$500. If you know of someone who might be interested in applying, please direct him or her to the scholarship portion of our website, <https://momayflower.org/scholarships/>. More details on the application process are provided there.

Introducing the Mayflower II Tartan

Joan McCready recently shared that an official tartan was created for the Mayflower II. The registration notes for the tartan state, “In 1620, a small group of English emigrants sailed across the Atlantic in search of a better life. Their daring voyage aboard the Mayflower is part of the founding history of the United States. A second Mayflower was constructed in Devon, England and sailed in 1957 to the same harbour where the Pilgrims landed centuries earlier. Mayflower’s story is intended to be represented within this design. It features the colors of Mayflower II—blue, red, yellow, green, and beige, along with dark blue for the ocean. A special thread count of 16-20-19-57 represents the years that the two historic ships sailed from England to Massachusetts.”

The link to The Scottish Register of Tartans and the Mayflower II design can be found online at <https://www.tartanregister.gov.uk/tartanDetails?ref=14060>



Welcome New Members!

New members—some newly discovered cousins

- ❖ **Philippe deLaperouse**, St. Louis, descendant of William Bradford
- ❖ **Martin Lammert VI**, St. Louis, descendant of Isaac Allerton
- ❖ **Harold Maxwell Stuhl, Jr**, St. Louis, descendant of John Alden

New juniors

- ❖ **Chase Conley**, grandson of Victoria Lee Wilkins, descendant of James Chilton
- ❖ **Olive Conley**, granddaughter of Victoria Lee Wilkins, descendant of James Chilton
- ❖ **Charlotte Conley**, granddaughter of Victoria Lee Wilkins, descendant of James Chilton
- ❖ **Addison Griesenauer**, granddaughter of Victoria Lee Wilkins, descendant of James Chilton
- ❖ **Cooper Griesenauer**, grandson of Victoria Lee Wilkins, descendant of James Chilton

Newly approved supplementals

- ❖ **Jacqueline McLelland**, descendant of Francis Cooke
- ❖ **Debra Kay Hovis**, descendant of Mary Allerton

Missouri Society Juniors Membership Program

Are you aware of the benefits of sponsoring your child or grandchild in the Juniors program?

- * One-time fee of \$25
- * No lineage proofs needed
- * A certificate showing membership and descent from a passenger of the Mayflower
- * A birthday postcard mailed every year, reminding your junior of his/her Mayflower ancestors
- * Two age-appropriate mailings a year, spring and fall, containing articles, projects, and activities designed to educate and create an appreciation for our Mayflower pilgrims

Applications may be found at the Missouri Mayflower Society website at momayflower.org

Necrology

❖ Former Governor General **Judith “Judy” (née Haddock) Swan**, February 11, 2025, Huntington Beach, CA. You can read Governor General Swan’s obituary online at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/westminster-ca/judith-swan-12244981>

Bylaws Update

Missouri Mayflower Society members will soon receive updated bylaws following a series of revisions made by the bylaws committee and the Board of Assistants. These updates reflect the collaborative efforts of both groups to ensure the bylaws are current and effectively address the needs of the society.

Your 2024-2026 State Officers and Committees

Governor Royce Barondes

Deputy Governor Jeff Pechauer

Recording Secretary Ann McReynolds

Corresponding Secretary Julia Jackson

Treasurer Dustin Peetz

Historian Debra Hovis

Elder Fred Evermon

Captain Sumner Hunnewell

Surgeon Scott Harris

Counselor Allen Garner

Deputy Gov. Gen. (DGG) Sumner Hunnewell

Assistant Governor (AG) Vicki Smith

Colony Governors:

Heart of America Jana Sattler

Greater Ozarks Dee Dosch

Committees:

Communications Donna Barnes

Education Open

Juniors Christy Scott

Newsletter Stacey Bohning, Cara Vazquez

Scholarship Sandra Walker, Dale Crandell

Website Joan McCready

Silent Auction Leslie Richards, Vicki Smith,

Cara Vazquez

Technology Stacey Bohning

Bylaws Ann McReynolds, Debra Hovis,

Royce Barondes, Allen Garner

Membership Experience Jana Sattler, Royce

Barondes

The Education Committee is in need of a new chair. If you would like to help us spread the word about our Mayflower ancestors and their ongoing significance, please contact Ann McReynolds (RecSec@momayflower.org) or Debra Hovis (Historian@momayflower.org) to learn what the role entails.

The Missouri Compact

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Missouri

Julia Jackson

Corresponding Secretary

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The Missouri Compact Editors

Stacey Bohning: Newsletter1@momayflower.org

Cara Vazquez: Newsletter2@momayflower.org

Website: momayflower.org

2025 Calendar

April 26, 2025, Saturday, Spring Luncheon at 11:45 am, lunch served at 12:15 pm at Midwest Genealogy Center, Independence, MO

Fall 2025, Business Meeting, Columbia area, details to be announced

November 2025, Compact Luncheon, St. Louis area, details to be announced

December 21, 2025, Forefather's Day Toast, details to be announced

General Board of Assistants Future Meetings

Sept. 4-7, 2025 San Antonio, TX; 2026 Plymouth, MA; 2027 Atlanta, GA; 2028 California; 2029 Plymouth, MA; 2030 Williamsburg, VA

Visit <https://generalsocietyofmayflowerdescendents.com/general-board-of-assistants-meeting-2025> for details about the GBOA Meeting.