



Spring 2024

Pilgrim News

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the District of Columbia



Calendar

Membership Meetings

Sunday, 19 May 2024

Sunday, 22 Sept 2024

Saturday, 16 Nov 2024

Board of Assistants

Saturday, 27 Apr 2024

Saturday, 27 Jul 2024

Saturday, 26 Oct 2024

SPECIAL EVENTS

Monday, 25 Mar 2024

DC Mayflower Society
Book Club Launch
(details inside)

Sunday, 7 April 2024

Patriot to Passenger Event
DCDAR Chapter House
(details inside)

Saturday, 16 Nov 2024
Compact Day Dinner

SCHEDULED BY GSMD

2024 GSMD Board of
Assistance Meeting
September 6-8 2024
Asheville, NC

“Northern Virginia” & the Popham Colony

On April 10, 1606, King James I signed the first Virginia Charter, which was a joint charter for both the London and Plymouth Companies. The charter gave the investors of the London Company a land grant to begin their plantations between the 34th and 41st latitude, basically a claim of land from South Carolina to New York City. The same charter gave the investors of the Plymouth Company a claim of land stretching from 38th and 45th latitude, which was all of New England, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and some of the St. Lawrence River valley. While both companies focused on commercial, religious, and national interests, the Plymouth Company was more inclined to profit from fishing, farming, and ship building.

Prior to this charter, travel to the New World had primarily been for adventurers, exploration, and trade. Permanent settlements were not considered or attempted until 1578 when Sir Humphrey Gilbert received a patent from Queen Elizabeth I. The patent gave him permission to “make a settlement on any 600 square miles of territory not actually possessed by any Christian prince or people.” Unfortunately, due to political issues at the time, Gilbert’s expedition was delayed until 1583. Gilbert set sail with a fleet of five ships, landing in New Foundland. He was met with resistance from those who had already settled there, however he eventually was able to lay claim of Newfoundland imposing a tax on fishermen from the several countries who worked near the Grand Sea of Newfoundland. (cont. on page 4)

FROM THE GOVERNOR



Happy Spring! As the season changes here in the DC Metropolitan area and the cherry tree in my front yard begins to show its wonderful spring colors, I feel a sense of renewal. I also feel that way when I look at the attendance of our Mayflower events and the new applications our Historian Team is working. We are a growing society with new members bringing new ideas and energy.

I'm just thrilled with the great work our Events and Speakers Committee is doing, coming up with new ways to gather with exciting and dynamic speakers. Our February meeting with the portrayal of Marye Bucke was just wonderful.

We are always open to new ideas, and we welcome everyone's input. If you have anything you would like us to focus on or do differently, please reach out to me governor@dcmayflower.org or any member of the Board of Assistants.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce D. Babcock
Governor



DEPUTY GOVERNOR'S REPORT



Thank you to all who attended our Winter Luncheon Membership meeting Sunday, February 25, 2024. We welcomed over sixty members, prospective members, and guests. Our guest speaker was Rebecca Suerdieck in her portrayal of Marye Bucke, wife of the Reverend Richard Bucke, Sea Venture survivor and resident of Jamestowne. Rebecca is

a Colonial Williamsburg Educator, with many years of experience in 18th-century Living History Interpretation. She volunteered in the Historic Area throughout her childhood, then worked as an employee for over 20 years. To learn more about Rebecca please visit her website at:

<https://www.rebeccasuerdieck.com/>.



Many thanks to the Events Committee for organizing the DC Mayflower Society Book Club. The first virtual meeting is March 25th at 7pm. Members are also encouraged to join the *DCDAR-DC Mayflower Society Patriot to Passenger* event on April 7th. Attendees will learn how to connect a Revolutionary War patriot to a Mayflower passenger, using the DAR Patriot to Passenger database. This promises to be a very exciting workshop!

Our next meeting will be our Spring Membership Luncheon

Sunday, May 19, 2024

Guest Speaker: David Trebing,

Chairman of the New England Historic Genealogical Society

**“Introduction to American Ancestors & the GSMD Connections”
and**

**“The NEHGS Heraldry Committee & the
International Congress of Heraldic and Genealogical Sciences”**

The Army Navy Club
901 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

****Please note that seating is available for 100 guests.****

Respectfully submitted,
Suzy T Mulligan

Sadly, Sir Gilbert met his demise on the return to England aboard the ship “Squirrel” on Sept 9, 1583. The eyewitness account of this journey written by Edward Haies can be found at this link: https://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=3957

Sir Gilbert’s stepbrother, Sir Walter Raleigh, was also an enthusiastic adventurer, captain, and financier of these early colonization expeditions. In 1584, 1585, and 1587, he organized an expedition that resulted in the Roanoke Colony and the claiming of territory he called “Virginia” after his beloved Queen Elizabeth I. The Queen proclaimed Raleigh as “Knight Lord and Governor of Virginia.” Raleigh continued to seek and acquire funding for this colony but, as we all know, the colony failed, with the whereabouts of the 100 or so men and boys remaining a mystery today. During the years that followed, England’s focus was on territorial conflicts with Spain, Ireland, and France, which would come to a calm with the passing of Queen Elizabeth I, and during the reign of King James I.

In 1605, an expedition under the financing of Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, Sir Thomas Arundell, Baron of Warder and others (which likely included Sir John Popham) to explore parts of “northern” Virginia was created. Under the guidance of Captain George Weymouth, the expedition landed near Nantucket, and explored several of the surrounding islands including the St. George Islands and Pemaquid. A firsthand account of the expedition can be found at this link: <https://www.americanjourneys.org/aj-041/summary/index.asp#:~:text=Rosier's%20Relation%20provides%20firsthand%20descriptions,would%20yield%20profits%20in%20Europe.>

Upon return to England in June of 1605, with several captured Abenaki leaders, Weymouth delivered them to the governor of Plymouth Fort, Sir Ferdinand Gorges. He also reported the land they “claimed” for England had many harbors, lush farmlands and abundant fishing. The captured Abenaki were displayed to help get financing and support for the next expedition. Two were sent back aboard a ship that was captured by the Spanish. Somehow one was lost, another was injured and in a Spanish prison. One escaped from prison in Spain, returned to England, and eventually made it back to what we now call Maine. Two others were returned to Maine in an effort to set up a trading post colony. This capture of the Abenaki was the first downfall of the future Popham Colony, for trust had been broken between the Abenaki Indians as well as other tribes and the English visitors.

The Plymouth Colony sent their first ship to the New World in August 1606. This first ship, the *Richard*, encountered the Spanish and were captured off the coast of Florida. On May 31 1607, two ships, the *Gift of God* (owned by the Gilbert family), and the *Mary and John* (owned by the Popham family), with 105 men and boys, departed from Plymouth, England. (cont. p. 6)

DCDAR & DC MAYFLOWER SOCIETY PRESENT

A PATRIOT TO PASSENGER WORKSHOP

Join the DCDAR and the DC Mayflower Society for a joint event to learn about the Patriot to Passenger Project and how you can connect Patriots of the American Revolution to passengers on the Mayflower and vice versa. All are invited to attend.



MAKE YOUR CONNECTIONS!

HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO JOIN ANOTHER LINEAGE SOCIETY BUT FELT DAUNTED BY THE PROCESS?

JOIN US FOR THIS INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP TO LEARN ABOUT THE PATRIOT TO PASSENGER PROJECT, AND OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT YOUR PATRIOT TO A MAYFLOWER PASSENGER. WE'LL HAVE DEDICATED WORK TIME TOGETHER TO RESEARCH OUR LINES AND VOLUNTEER GENIES ON HAND TO HELP AND ANSWER QUESTIONS.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO BRING YOUR COMPUTER TO ACCESS THE PROJECT ONLINE.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH @ 2-4PM
DCDAR CHAPTER HOUSE
4840 MACARTHUR BLVD NW
RSVP TO ARYSSA.DAMRON@GMAIL.COM
BY APRIL 3RD**

“Northern Virginia” & the Popham Colony

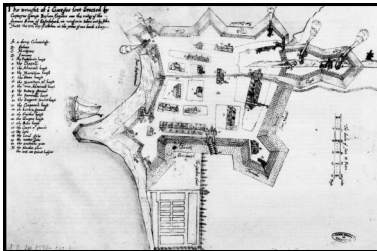
These ships, captained by John Elliot and Robert Davies, were under the guidance of Sir George Popham, the 56-year-old nephew of financier Sir John Popham and twenty-five-year-old Sir Raleigh Gilbert, son of explorer and founder of New Foundland, Sir Humphry Gilbert. They arrived at the Sagadahoc River (now the Kennebec) in August 1607.

The creation of and investments in the Plymouth and the London Companies, later called the Virginia Company, were designed to be competitive, with the “northern Virginia” colony of Popham competing with the “southern Virginia” colony of Jamestown. It is unclear whether this was known to the men and boys who travelled to both colonies. The goals of the Plymouth Company expedition/colony were to trade precious metals, spices, and furs. In addition they were to establish that ships could be built using the local forests by building a pinnace and sending it back to England as proof. A shipwright by the name of Mr. Digby was a passenger. Arriving in August must have been a rude awakening for all, as the weather was not conducive to planting at that time of year. With fall closing in and a long winter coming soon, the colonists had to depend on the food and supplies they brought with them to get through the winter. They were able to build a storehouse, an exploring shallow, and a chapel during those first few months. They called their establishment Fort St. George. The journal of Captain Robert Davies documents the first five weeks of the colony. (<https://mfship.org/home/history/original/davies-journal/>). The *Mary and John* was sent back to

England in October 1607, along with the Davies journal and a layout plan of Fort St. George by map maker [John Hunt](#). This plan never made it to the English, instead was delivered to Spain’s King Philip III, never to be seen again until 1888! Surprisingly, the archaeological remains for Fort St. George would not be rediscovered and confirmed until 1994, by archaeologist Jeff P. Brain,

Peabody Essex Museum. The *Gift of God* remained in Maine until about mid-winter, when it was sent back with about fifty passengers, leaving about the same in the colony. Food was extremely scarce during this time, due to lack of foraging skills and the damaged relationship with the native tribes.

Meanwhile, back in England, the primary investor and president of the Plymouth Colony, Sir John Popham, died in June 1607, leaving the Sir John Gilbert (brother of Raleigh Gilbert) in charge until his passing in 1608.



Fort St. George plan by John Hunt

“Northern Virginia” & the Popham Colony

During this time the colonists were busy erecting buildings and most importantly completed and launched the pinnace, named *Virginia*, in the spring of 1608. In February 1608, George Popham died, leaving the young, ambitious Raleigh Gilbert as President of the Colony. The colonists would not learn of the death of the two major financiers until May of 1608, when the *Mary and John* returned. When Raleigh Gilbert learned of his brother’s death and the estate inheritance, he decided he would return to England. In October 1608, due to the uncertainty of a food supply, the approaching winter months, hostilities with the natives and the French, not to mention that lack of funding, the remaining colonists boarded the *Mary and John* and the pinnace *Virginia* to return to England, proving that ships could be built and successfully sailed across the ocean. The *Virginia* was purchased by the colony of Jamestown, making her return to America in 1609.



Replica of America’s first ship
the *Virginia*.

The Plymouth Company was now defunct, but would be reorganized in 1620 as the Plymouth Council for New England and have 40 patentees based on the 1620 Charter for New England by King James I. (<https://www.let.rug.nl/usa/documents/1600-1650/the-charter-of-new-england-1620.php>). “Northern Virginia” would become New England, and home to our Mayflower ancestors.

The pinnace *Virginia* was the first oceangoing ship built in America, and is the hallmark ship of the 400-year tradition of Maine’s shipbuilding excellence. Maine’s First Ship, an educational NFP organization recently completed building a seaworthy replica of the Virginia, taking her first voyage on Dec 12, 2022. (<https://mfship.org/>)

Remarkably, George Popham is the only known colonist to die at Popham Colony. The 100 or so men and boys returned safely to England, sharing their knowledge and experiences, which would be of great assistance to the pilgrims arriving aboard the Mayflower.

By Suzy T Mulligan

WELCOME ABOARD TO OUR NEWEST COUSINS!

Tamara Lyn Larson Parks ~ *William White*

Donald Eugene Dixon ~ *Degory Priest*

James Robert Morrissey ~ *Stephen Hopkins*

Bruce Edward Munger ~ *James Chilton*

TRANSFERS IN

Anne Vanderwerken ~ *Thomas Rogers*

Lisa Quattrochi ~ *William Bradford*

Susannah Carr ~ *Francis Cooke*

GSMD 2024 Virtual Programs

[Click Here To Learn More](#)



When you get there, please be sure to scroll down to see the programs and get the links.

Thursday, April 11, 2024 7pm-8pm

Pits, Pots & Palisades: The Archeology of Patuxent and the 17th Century Plimoth Colony Settlement by David Landon

Thursday, May 16, 2024 7pm-8pm

Families and Freedom: Connections Between the Mayflower and the American Revolution by Jonathan Lane.

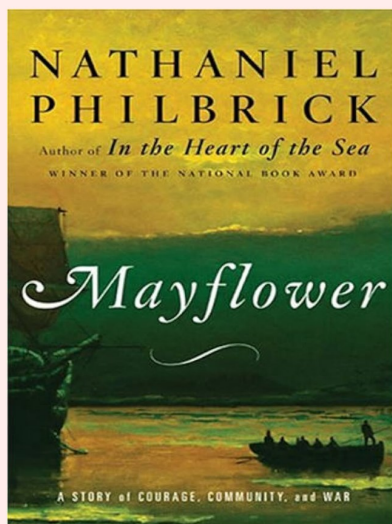
Thursday, June 6, 2024 7pm-8pm

D-Day Deceptions by Mark Schmidt

To join the DC Mayflower Society Book Club
register by signing up at this link:

[Bit.LY/MAYFLOWERBOOKCLUB](https://bit.ly/mayflowerbookclub)

The **Mayflower**
Society™



DC MAYFLOWER BOOK CLUB

MARCH 25, 2024

VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM, REGISTER ONLINE:

[BIT.LY/MAYFLOWERBOOKCLUB](https://bit.ly/mayflowerbookclub)

(ALL CAPS)

7PM EASTERN

WWW.DCMAYFLOWERSOCIETY.ORG

If you would like to order a name tag, please print the order form below, complete it and mail it with payment to the address listed or use this link to order online.

<https://forms.gle/7gm3Y2qrkfl1yrHCv8>



DC Mayflower Society Name Tag Order Form



The DC Mayflower Society is excited to organize a name tag order for our membership who have expressed their interest in reusable name tags. The sample name tag you see is the approximate size (1.5 x3 in.). You can place an order in one of two ways:

- Click this link for an online order form <https://forms.gle/7gm3Y2qrkfl1yrHCv8> or,
- Print this form and complete it, then mail it to the address below.

Payment can be made in one of three ways. If ordered 14 days prior to the next meeting, the name tag will be available at the meeting or we can ship it to you for an additional \$5.00.

____ Via Venmo to @Aryssa-Damron

____ Via PayPal to aryssa.damron@gmail.com

____ By check to: *Aryssa Damron and mailed to her at 301 G St SW Apt 636 Washington DC 20024.*

1. YOUR NAME as you would like it to appear on the nametag:

2. NAME OF YOUR PASSENGER:

3. EMAIL ADDRESS & PHONE #

PHONE: _____

4.HOW MANY OF THIS NAME TAGS WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER?

CHOOSE ONE ANSWER: _____ 1 (\$15 plus shipping) _____ 2 (\$30 plus shipping)

5.BACKING: _____Magnetic _____Stick Pin

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

____ I will pick my nametag up at the next meeting.

____ Please mail my nametag to me for an additional \$5 shipping cost. Here is my mailing address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zipcode: _____

In Memoriam

2021 and 2022

Katherine Cullen King

Former Secretary of the DC Mayflower Society

1950-2022

Beverlee Ann Mitchell

1932-2022

Michelle Elizabeth Seedlock

1971-2021

Jean Stickle Shultz

1926-2022

Bruce Woodbridge Strong

1938-2021

John M. Thomas

1930-2022

Col. John E. Sweeney

1942-2022

2023

Thomas Lowe Hughes

1925-2023

Marcia Hower Osman

1931-2023

J. Thomas Tanner

Former Governor of the DC Mayflower Society

1940-2023



The Mayflower Society offers commemorative Grave Markers for Mayflower Descendants and Members.

To learn more, visit www.themayflowersociety.org

Officers

Governor

Bruce D. Babcock

Deputy Governor

Suzy T Mulligan

Recording/

Corresponding

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Shelley Rodgers

Membership Secretary

Kelly Keegan

Treasurer

Kent C. Boese

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David Gallalee

Elder

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Surgeon

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Chris Westcott

Shirley Wilcox, C.G.

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Janet Downing

Timothy Finton

Glennon Harrison

Beth Gable Hicks

Annie John

Donald Lamson

David Stringfellow

J. Tom Tanner

Nicholas Ward

**Society of Mayflower Descendants
District of Columbia
c/o Shelley Rodgers
1509 Oakcrest Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302**



TO: