

The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants Newsletter Special Edition



Celebrating the 400th anniversary
of the first harvest

Dear

In the 50's and 60's growing up in the mid-west part of the USA, holidays such as Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas were a great opportunity for the families to join together and celebrate. My thoughts drift back to those family journeys that we would make to visit our grandparents. Grandma would spend days preparing a huge feast with turkey and ham, stuffing, mash potatoes, green bean casserole, and cranberry sauce and yams. Dessert was a choice of two or three pies - pumpkin, apple or cherry and sometimes rhubarb. It was a big event, with at least ten adults and another ten to twelve children. Several of our cousins would also travel and sit down to reminisce of how fortunate we were to be together and give thanks for the blessings that had been bestowed upon us for that year. That same family tradition continued on from Grandma to my Mom and Dad and our family members.

Over the past few years having moved to Australia, I realized that the Thanksgiving Day celebration is far less of an event, if it is practiced at all. It is celebrated by only those who have family ties in America, or belong to one of several of the organizations that are affiliated with the USA such as the American Legion, the Australian American Association, the Sons (SAR) or Daughters of the Revolution (DAR), VFW and the Mayflower Society.

As the Governor of our Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants I had to stop and reflect on those circumstances and how I had celebrated Thanksgiving in the past; and now, without the usual family traditions, how was I to give thanks in this new country. This year, my wife and I are hosting a traditional Thanksgiving feast with all our Australian relatives. Some are aware of the Pilgrims, others are not. Just the same, they are intrigued to attend and see what all the fuss is about. It will require a few changes. There isn't a tin of Libbys' canned pumpkin within 12,000 miles, so, like our forefathers we will adapt and overcome the hurdles.

This will be a great time to reflect on those things for which we are all truly thankful. The last two years have been difficult with lockdowns, bushfires and floods. At our Society's General Meeting on November 13th it was very clear that the majority of us were thankful for our families, our health and the freedoms we enjoy.

I am personally thankful to all of our members for their continued support and having elected me as Governor for another year. Our society continues to grow with seven new members this year and continued networking with other historical societies.

Robert Granger was elated and thankful that his grandsons', Hayden and Keenan, were approved three days prior to our meeting. Robert said, he knew, if his Auntie was still

alive she would be very proud to see all four generations down to his great grandson as members of the Mayflower Society.

Matilda Lea was thankful for her health, family and where they live.

Orel Lea, was thankful for being an Australian and the comfort of a close family and seeing her granddaughters' grow.

Fiona Lynton was also thankful for many things in her life, but especially for her beautiful family and friends.

It's has been 400 years since the first harvest. Our Pilgrim forefathers reminds us to keep faith and endure. To be thankful for even the smallest blessing. To be kind, to be generous and to share; and to accept the help of others in our most trying times.

Keith C. Quimbach

George Soule descendant



Juniors web page

Find out who is eligible, how to sponsor a Junior member, and see useful links to resources for kids and teachers.

[See More >>](#)

Upcoming Events

Prepare your diary for 2022 with these upcoming events.

[Learn More >>](#)



Introducing our brand new Juniors' activities and crafts page.

Just in time for Thanksgiving! Plenty of fun ideas and crafts to excite the imagination.

[Read more >>](#)





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