

The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants Inc.

****Dispatches from Downunder****



December 2023 edition



Greetings for the end of 2023 – I guess we are all looking forward to Christmas and the start of a new year with or without our best resolutions. The year of 2023 has been an especially momentous year for AUSMD and Mayflower in Australia. We had the first visit of the Governor General to Mayflower's newest Society, when Jane Hurt spent close to a week in Qld for the AGM and associated activities in mid July 2023. It also allowed us to negotiate the use of the rather grand Queensland Parliament House in central Brisbane which dates from 1867, for our meetings and social venues.

In September, as DDG, I represented AUSMD at a face-to-face Congress (2020 Congress turned out to be a series of long Zoom meetings) the first time an Australian attended the Congress in Plymouth. AUSMD was awarded the Greene Bowl for the



greatest percentage growth of any of the 54 societies for the last two years. The Society was also honoured by the appointment of Past Governor, Keith Quimbach to the Juniors GSMD Committee and Governor, Bill Elliott's appointment to the GSMD Marketing and Promotion Committee.

Our Deputy Governor, Philip Koether, has been recovering from major surgery, in October, but we are hoping to have him back at least in a limited format in the New Year. Best wishes from all your friends in AUSMD, Philip!

Treasurer David Magee has taken the lead in our move from using Zoom to the Adoption of Office 365 and Teams. Microsoft is making Office 365 available to qualified Not-for -Profit companies, and AUSMD is one of those qualified organisations. As well as a range of software, we will have free cloud storage and most importantly free use of Teams instead of paying over \$30 per month for Zoom. This is a great initiative.

Connie, as Secretary, has a wide range of activities and responsibilities with help in preparing the meeting minutes from Pat Magee. She is always energetically ensuring our record keeping is impeccable as well as leading the Publicity Committee.

We provide our membership details to Plymouth based on numbers at the end of December, and with a few weeks to go we now appear to have 62 members of AUSMD which is a great growth since the 20 that were required to initiate the society in 2020. We will have our fourth anniversary in 2024 - the formation of the society was approved by the GSMD from 26 January 2020, and we were registered as a not-for-profit corporation and the Constitution adopted on 2 June 2020.

May I wish you all a wonderful Christmas season and a positive start to the New Year of 2024.

Bill Elliott - Governor & Deputy Governor General



Member profile

Name: Connie Lynn Riley

Position held in AUSMD: Charter member, Secretary and Publicity Committee, Chair

Approved Mayflower Ancestor/s: John Howland, Richard Warren and John Tilley

About: I was born in Battle Creek and raised in Union City, Michigan. My family surname was Pepper and I was one of the “Five Little Peppers”. I have lived in Anchorage, Alaska and Dayton, Ohio prior to moving to Australia to be with my husband Lester in 1988. Since then, we have lived in Cronulla, NSW, retired to Airlie Beach, QLD and lastly sought a sea change by moving to Mareeba in the tablelands above Cairns in Far North QLD.

I have two sons living in Dayton and Lester has two daughters, one in Sydney and one in Perth. We also have 9 grandchildren between us. Since they are so spread out, travelling to see them keeps us pretty busy.

Although I have had various jobs in the past, my last position was with the Toyota Motor Corporation, Head Office in Woollooware, NSW, working as a Consultant/Project Manager on the relocation of their Head Office. I am currently retired.

Apart from family and travelling, Lester and I enjoyed a good deal of time sailing the coastal waters of Australia. Although we no longer sail, we have the best memories of all of our time on the water.

Genealogy and my Mayflower Journey: My genealogy journey began when I visited a friend Ann, in Wales, UK who showed me a computer programme she was using to document her family tree.

It really got me interested.

My Father, his sister Nina and brother Bruce were the family historians. They did everything the hard way, by writing letters requesting documents and gathering information from other family members. They had gathered a good deal of information and kept them in boxes and file folders.

I decided I would make their process electronic and started on a family tree computer programme of my own. That was in 1988. After that I got hooked on the research and have been doing research ever since. That’s when I discovered that our family had a Mayflower link.

Although my Aunt Nina was still alive when I was accepted by the Mayflower Society, my dad and my Uncle Bruce never knew that our family were Mayflower Descendants. They would have been so pleased to find out. The one thing I regret is that when we travelled in the Cape Cod and Roxbury, Massachusetts areas researching our Family History, I never knew the Mayflower Connection, so we never travelled to visit Plymouth. It is my wish that someday in the near future, I can fulfill that dream.

I thoroughly enjoy my volunteer work with the Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants and spend as much time as I can on my own and Lester’s family research. It is a passion that I hope continues for a very long time.

My genealogy passion – inspirations.... My Dad, Aunt Nina (his sister) and Uncle Bruce (his brother).



Mom and Dad's 50th Wedding Anniversary – Four Pepper Siblings (all Mayflower Descendants from John Howland, Richard Warren and John Tilley)

Left to Right: Maurice Piper, and wife Marie Louise (Pepper) Piper, Bruce Nathaniel Pepper, Russell Erving Pepper, Gladys M. (Keller) Piper, Nina Marie (Pepper) Klein

Lester and Connie
celebrating Christmas
2022



If you would like to share your Member Profile please complete the template, located in the link below, and forward to secretary@mayflowersociety.org.au.

Template link



Quintessential American Ancestor by Steve Isham

Rebecca Isham 1731-1823

Like an upper floor
in some old Colonial inn
the doors to Isham family lives
in ten generations align
on a long corridor
with oak timbered tread.

Timothy's door is third from the end
Inscribed - April 25 1751 - in Puritan Copperplate
to indicate the day of his marriage
to Rebecca Fuller
who sits inside rocking in a bent wood chair
reciting the birthdays of her 16 children including
Timothy captured in the Battle of Long Island in 1776
and Joshua whose burned-down Connecticut house
was rebuilt by neighbors the following Saturday.

Rebecca goes to glory at 92.
Rebecca the great great granddaughter of Samuel
Fuller
who at 12 years old survived the
two month stormy crossing in the Mayflower
and the following year broke bread
with the Wampanoags at the first Thanksgiving.





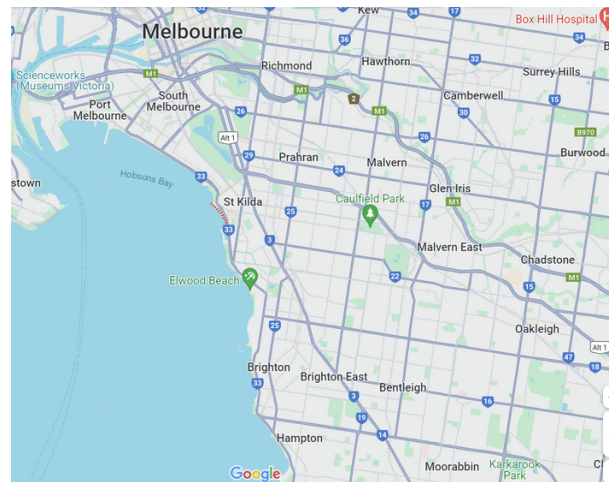
Upcoming Events

26 January 2024 - time tbc

Australia Day celebration with special guest Dr. Carla K. Rigby from York Beach, Maine, USA. Carla is one of our dual members and the Past Governor and currently DDG and Board Member of The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Maine.

Carla will be discussing her role as a veterinarian and her business travels to Melbourne, Australia, plus her Mayflower lineage. There will also be time for questions and answers.

October 2024 - AUSMD Annual AGM - will be held on 12 October 2024 in Melbourne, Australia. We are targeting holding the AGM in the St. Kilda, Elsternwick and Gardenvale areas of Melbourne.
More details on venue and exact locations will be advised in the New Year.



It's competition time!

Our name our newsletter competition had many entries, but no one winner - we have merged a few of the suggestions to come up with our new name -

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MEMBERSHIP INTERACTIVE CHALLENGE

Things you can do to become an active Member of the Australian Society.

Each Quarter we will challenge you with 5 checklists of things you can do to become an active member.

When you tick the page with all five items send it to us so we can add you to the Membership Challenge Leaderboard



1. Write an article or blog for the Newsletter, Website or Mayflower Quarterly. Submit articles big or small.



2. Join our Facebook page: Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants. Submit photos; make comments; like our posts.



3. Submit a profile to be included in our Newsletter.



4. Tell us about any historical sites in your area that have connections to USA/Mayflower.



5. Read a book about the Mayflower and write a book review.

Contact Connie Lynn Riley, Publicity Chair for forms, submissions or questions. ausmdpublicity@gmail.com



Mayflower related Children's Book!

There are many picture books that tell the story of the Pilgrims from their voyage on the Mayflower to their survival through the first year. The following book is in print and available online from several booksellers.

The Boy Who Fell off the Mayflower or John

Howland's Good Fortune –

P.J. Lynch, published 2015, Candlewick Press, ISBN 9781536202960, 64 pages, for ages 7- 11 yrs.

Review by Pat Magee

Renowned illustrator, P. J. Lynch begins the story of John Howland, the teenaged servant of John Carver, as he leaves London and sails on the Mayflower. John Howland describes how he miraculously survived falling overboard and went on to help in the building of the new colony in Plymouth, then took part in the Thanksgiving harvest feast. The exquisite illustrations truly bring the story to life and John speaks with the questioning voice of a teen in a new world.



Juniors membership news

Don't forget to check out all the resources on our [AUSMD website](#) or through the [General Society of Mayflower Descendants](#)

Members celebrations this quarter

Birthdays

Olivia Lea - 9th November

Collier Wiese - 21 November

Lester Riley - 3rd December

Connie Riley - 17th December

Rae Bennett - 28th December

Anniversaries

Steve and Marion Isham - marking 47 years together, congratulations



Quarterly Membership Overview as at 25 Dec 2023

Total Membership	61		
Regular Members:	61	Australian Residents	34
Associate Members:	17	USA Residents:	24
Junior Members:	8	Overseas Residents:	3

Members by Family Groups			
Isaac Allerton	2	John Howland	12
John Billington	2	William White	2
William Bradford	5	Priscilla Mullins	1
Willilam Brewster	2	John Hopkins	1
Stephen Hopkins	2	Thomas Rogers	3
James Chilton	2	David Sampson	1
John Alden	1	George Soule	10
Edward Fuller	3	Myles Standish	1
Richard Warren	10		

Welcome to New Members for 4th quarter 2023		
AU67	Sara Soule-Chapman	October 2023
AU68	Collier Wiese	October 2023
AU69	Deborah Domain	October 2023
AU70	Patrick Morgan	October 2023
AU71	Jamie Rae Brophy	December 2023





The Australian Society of Mayflower
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