

The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants Newsletter



September 2023 edition



Dear

Greetings AUSMD members !!

It was a great thrill to be elected as Governor at the AGM held at the Queensland Parliament on 15 July 2023. It was also wonderful to have Governor General Jane Hurt there to officiate and swear in the newly elected office bearers in person.



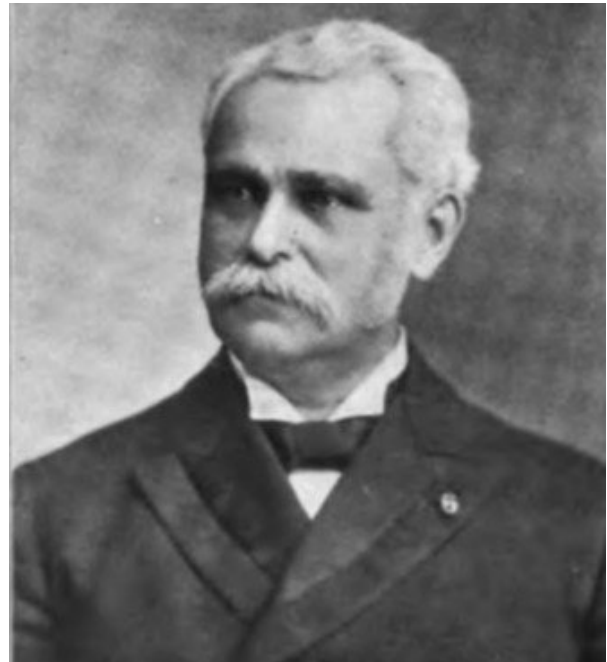
Governor - Bill Elliott
 Deputy Governor - Philip Koether
 Secretary - Connie Riley
 Treasurer - David J. Magee
 BOA Member - Keith C. Quimbach

missing from the photo
 BOA Member - David C. Baker
 BOA Member - Richard L. Shaw
 BOA Member - Ken Whittemore

2023 AUSMD Board of Assistants

There is a special Mayflower historical commemoration associated with this event. Exactly 120 years ago in 1903, my great-grandfather's elder brother, Judge Henry Varnum Freeman, was sworn in as Governor of the Illinois Mayflower Society having joined it when it was formed in 1897. A long time between drinks but it is nice to think that there is somewhat of a family tradition !!

Henry Varnum Freeman (1842-1916)



After having the opportunity to learn so much about the wider operations of the Mayflower Society from Jane Hurt, Chris and I were thrilled to be able to visit Plymouth for the 2023 Mayflower Congress held in September. Every 3 years there is a special Congress in Plymouth where changes to the Constitution and new office-bearers are voted upon. We had been booked to attend in 2020 for the 400th anniversary of Mayflower, but of course that was not to be and instead the congress became a series of Zoom meetings, which always seemed to begin between 2am and 4am Australian time !!

This time there was an opportunity to meet people from across the Mayflower world and potentially from all 54 societies. This year in Plymouth 49 of those societies were represented and we had the opportunity to speak with people from all of those societies over a six-day period. In the last 2 years our Connecticut-based AG Steve Arnold has ably represented the Australian Society and was there to provide invaluable background and advice during the Congress in Plymouth this year.

Being the shy Australians that we are, we made sure we had fluttering Australian flags on our rental car, and another on our room door. On the Sunday morning we held the first meeting of AUSMD in North America when we held a breakfast meeting in the bar at Hotel 1620. We were fortunate that the Barman helped us put up our full-size Australian flag on the wall, just so the 14 members who attended would know where they should meet !!



**Bill showing off the hire car
and Aussie Flags**



We were delighted so many charter and dual members were able to attend our Breakfast meeting on the Sunday morning.

**AUSMD members meeting
for breakfast**



Photo - Member at Large - Lorrie Link, Bill Elliott and Governor, Jane Hurt

Our society was honoured to win the Greene Bowl on the Monday for the highest percentage increase in membership numbers for the last 2 years. But there was a downside - it made it hard to argue that higher membership fees detract from our ability to grow !! I also noticed that when I asked whether there was any financial aid to help with the cost of excess luggage to get the Greene Bowl back to Australia, it suddenly disappeared rapidly back to the Mayflower office - just in case I was serious !! Sometimes the Australian sense of humour can be confusing for Americans !!

The Congress always ends with a formal dinner and swearing in of the newly elected officers.



2023 Congress Banquet -
Marti Bobertz (Co-Historian) and Bill Elliott

In summary, there was so much to learn and so many contacts to make, that we came away feeling thrilled but exhausted by our first congress. But the generosity and hospitality that delegates showed us, and the new friends that we made in Plymouth made our attendance a joy.

Bill Elliott

AUSMD Governor and Deputy Governor General





**Special Thanks -
Genevieve Quimbach -
Editor 2020-2023, Website and Newsletter**

The AUSMD Publicity team can't thank you enough for all of your hard work for the past few years, and for the dedication you have shown.

We are sorry
to see you leaving this role.

It has been an honour working with such
a talented member.

Your work in taking on the newsletter and AUSMD website has been invaluable and has given us a sound basis to allow us to broaden and grow in the future.

All of your efforts will not be forgotten.



**Special Welcome -
Chris Elliott -
Editor 2023-, Website and Newsletter**

The AUSMD Publicity team would like to welcome aboard, Chris, as the new website and newsletter editor and a welcome addition to our publicity committee.

We are looking forward to working together to expand and grow our media sites and in anticipation of bigger and better things to come.

Best wishes to both of you
Connie Lynn Riley
Publicity Chair

Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving celebrations

AUSMD Annual AGM - 2024

Watch this space for more details next issue!



It's competition time!

- 1). Name our newsletter - we are looking for a new name for our newsletter. Send through your ideas and the name chosen will receive a small gift.
- 2). For our Junior Members - send in a drawing for our Thanksgiving edition. It can be whatever you want it to be about Thanksgiving, the Pilgrims, or Mayflower related. There will be a small gift for all those who enter.
- 3). Send in your photos of Thanksgiving celebrations to be featured in a future edition or on our website.

**Send your entries to
secretary@mayflowersociety.org.
au**

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. Most also describe the general celebrations of the first Thanksgiving while a few tell the story in the voice of children from one family.

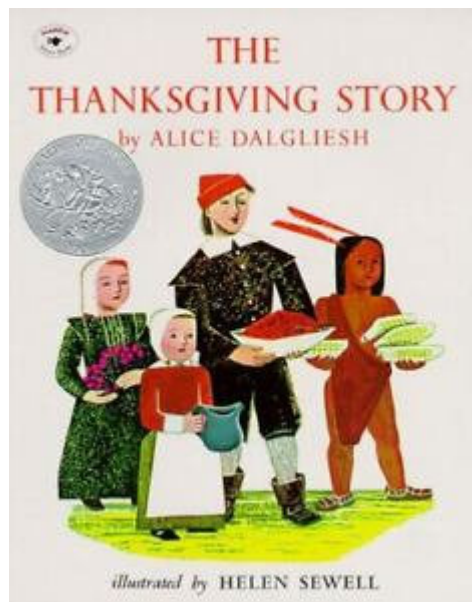
The following book is in print and available online from several booksellers.

The Thanksgiving Story –

Alice Dalgliesh (Author) and Helen Sewell (Illus.),
published 1985, Aladdin Picture Books, ISBN
9780689710537,

Originally published in 1955, 32 pages, for ages 5-8
years.

Giles, Constance and Damaris Hopkins travelled on the Mayflower and welcomed a new baby brother, Oceanus, during the voyage. This award-winning picture book tells the story of the Plymouth colony through their eyes and how they survived the first winter with the help of their Native American friends. Many interesting details about shipboard life, how Squanto and Massasoit helped the Pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving are included. (supplied by Pat Magee)



Juniors membership news

Welcome to our newest Junior Members -
Masa Michael Bottlinger and his sister, Nami Grace
Bottlinger.

We welcome you and your parents, James and Yoko.
Masa and Nami, along with their parents, live in
Okinawa, Japan.

For anyone wanting to find out more about our
Junior program, refer to the link below.

**see useful links to resources for
kids and teachers.**

Sending out an SOS!

When our immediate past Treasurer, Richard Shaw learnt that we were attending the 2023 Congress in Plymouth, he had a request that we locate and photograph his tribute Brick, honouring his Aunt who was an early member of the Mayflower Society.



In the grounds of The Mayflower Society House is the [Garden Walkway Project](#), established in 2011 with over 600 engraved, donated bricks. You can honour your ancestors by donating to have a brick inscribed and placed on the walkway.

Richard has previously written an article for the AUSMD Inc website about his [Soule ancestors](#), including his story about becoming a member, himself. His brick celebrates his Aunt, Gertrude Frances Soules, who was also a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Richard provided us with a photo of the stone, so we knew for what we were looking, just not the location. Our journey started with contacting the GSMD office for location details, but alas, that was unsuccessful. Next was a walk up and down the pathways, it would have looked funny to any onlooker observing the procession. The only saving grace was we were not the only ones participating in this experience, we were joined by others who had attended Congress looking for their bricks, too! It took two separate attempts to locate, but we did locate the brick, the morning we left Plymouth for our return journey.

We immediately emailed photos to Richard while we were still in the Walkway area, and Richard and Colin received them while having a leisurely breakfast whilst holidaying in Queenstown NZ.





Member profile

Name: Bill Elliott

Position held in AUSMD: Governor and DGG

Approved Mayflower Ancestor/s: William Brewster

Other Memberships: Royal Historical Society of Qld, Australian American Society, Illinois Mayflower Society, Brewster MA Historical Society, Elder William Brewster Society.



About:

I am at the end of my working life, but was born in Mackay, and began as a chemist in the Sugar Industry in North Queensland, and from there went to technical roles in the mining industry and with the Oil and Petrochemical giant Exxon spending most of my working life in Marketing Management or Senior Management roles where communication with the community and government as well as to customers were of paramount importance. In high school, I had to decide between Modern History (my favourite subject) and Chemistry which turned out to have better career prospects. However, I have spent a lot of time volunteering with history groups over many years, and I would like to think that my prime contribution has been to help put these groups large and small, on a more solid financial footing by seeking ways of bringing extra income into the organisations. Add your text here. Edit to add dynamic values like name, email and more.

Genealogy and my Mayflower Journey:

I have always known that I was descendent of William Brewster, as my grandmother researched and documented our lineage both in the US and the UK in the late 1920s and documented it in a book for each family. Chris and I really began researching our Mayflower lineage in detail in around 2016, and also began studying for a Diploma of Family History through the University of Tasmania. Subsequently I have completed a history degree last year and am in the last weeks of preparing my thesis for a history honours degree. My great grandfather's brother had joined the Illinois Mayflower Society in 1897, (and at a time when it took 24 hours to approve a lineage in Plymouth) when it was founded, and in 1903 became Governor of the Illinois Society. Thus, we decided we would join the Illinois Society, but it was still a hard slog. After many trips to lots of parts of the USA I discovered that I had 3rd cousins in southern Wisconsin and 2nd and 3rd cousins in Colorado.

In recent years we have managed to have Thanksgiving with our American cousins on several different occasions, and most recently caught up with some of them at Cape Cod just before the beginning of the Mayflower Congress in Plymouth in September 2023.



Visiting the Headstone of my ancestor Elder William Brewster in Plymouth, Massachusetts



Chris & Bill Elliott attending the 2022 Thanksgiving luncheon for the Illinois Mayflower Society in Wheaton, Illinois

If you would like to be featured in an upcoming newsletter, complete the template and return to the secretary@mayflowersociety.org.au

Template



Articles from other Associations -

- The Association of Aviation Ordancemen - story on our member, Derek Hall by Keith C. Quimbach, p22
- The Australian American Association - Brisbane
- Fellowship of First Fleeters - Presidents message about meeting with Jane Hurt and receiving a donation in honour of our past member, Orel Lea, pp2-3
- to read the article, click on the buttons, below

**Association of
Aviation
Ordancemen**

**Australian
American
Association**

**Fellowship of
First Fleeters**



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