

The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants Inc.

****Dispatches from Downunder****

June 2025 edition

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Mayflower Musings - June 2025 - Governor's Message – Bill Elliott

One of the challenges for a relatively new and little-known organisation like The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants Inc (AUSMD) is making the wider public aware that we even exist. And if they do not know we exist, how can we appeal to potential members to take the opportunity to investigate their ancestry and then consider joining our society?

We have taken a number of initiatives to build public awareness of our existence, including the use of our prominent and attractive membership badges, which we hope our members will wear as often as they are able to, to identify themselves, and to be ready to speak about their Mayflower ancestry and the Mayflower Society. There should be many additional opportunities with the America 250 celebrations, which began recently and will run for a number of years. However, we have been considering how else we might build public awareness.

One of the things that our Board of Assistants (BOA) has decided to do, is to produce our own Mayflower Bookmarks. After I attended the Congress (held every 3 years) in Plymouth in September 2023, we brought back a pack of several hundred bookmarks that were sold by the international society. However, we felt they were too expensive to be able to be used widely and looked at how we might produce our own AUSMD bookmark, to reduce cost and to focus on the fact that we now had an Australian Society. Consequently, we have now been able to produce these bookmarks for a few cents each, and they should be available to us in July ahead of the AGM weekend being held from 22-24 August in Brisbane, which we trust many members will be able to attend.

The Australian Society of
Mayflower Descendants,
Inc.



In 2020, coinciding with the 400-year anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower at Plymouth, USA and the Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants was formed by charter. Our mission includes helping to tell the story of the Pilgrims to honour their strength, courage, faith, and commitment to the principles of liberty. Our members are descendants of the original Mayflower passengers who seek to preserve their heritage in Australia.



AGM 2023-Parliament
House, Brisbane, QLD

We are hoping that each of you, whether attending the AGM or not, will consider the libraries with which you may be involved - local, school, or other libraries such as specialist libraries that have a historical focus, and see whether we can distribute our bookmarks there as a consequence. We have initially produced 5000 bookmarks, but in discussions with one of our local politicians in the Brisbane City Council area, interest has been expressed in helping fund production of extra supplies of bookmarks to allow them to be distributed over a wide range of Brisbane City Council libraries. Perhaps others of you can consider what links you might have to have these distributed, and perhaps you can think of sources of additional funding as well.

Please let us know what thoughts you might have, and we look forward to hearing from many members about how they may be able to distribute Mayflower Bookmarks in their local area, as a means of helping build awareness of The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants Inc.

Many thanks, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Bill Elliott

governor@mayflowersociety.org.au

MAYFLOWER COMPACT 1620 SIGNERS

John Carver	John Turner
William Bradford	Francis Eaton
Edward Winslow	James Chilton
William Brewster	John Crackstone
Isaac Allerton	John Billington
Myles Standish	Moses Fletcher
John Alden	John Goodman
Samuel Fuller	Degory Priest
Christopher Martin	Thomas Williams
William Mullins	Gilbert Winslow
Richard Warren	Edmund Margesson
John Howland	Peter Browne
Stephen Hopkins	Richard Britteridge
Edward Tilley	George Soule
John Tilley	Richard Clarke
Francis Cooke	Richard Gardiner
Thomas Rogers	John Allerton
Thomas Tinker	Thomas English
Jonn Rigsdale	Edward Doty
Edward Fuller	Edward Leister

Contact Us

For general enquiries, please contact Bill Elliott (Governor) at governor@mayflowersociety.org.au

For membership enquiries, email the Australian Historian directly at historian@mayflowersociety.org.au

Website:

www.mayflowersociety.org.au

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/736882643392129/

ABN 23 918 254 382
Unit 3, 29 Shamrock St.
Gordon Park, QLD 4031



Mayflower

Image credit: InAweofGod'sCreation

From Member at Large - Beth Lambright

It's MAY! That lovely month of new growth, flowers, sunnier skies, and warmer weather. May seems to be a reward for having survived the winter and a long Spring of snow, showers, and mud. This Quarterly Newsletter is bringing all the news of events within our Society and all the latest on Mayflower opportunities.

Did you know. . . . ?

That our Society's colors of pink and white are because the Mayflower that grows in Plymouth blooms both *pink* and *white*?

That William Bradford never recorded the name of the ship in his journal Of Plimoth Plantation?

That the name of the Pilgrims' ship was first found on the 1623 Land Division document and was spelled phonetically as "*May-floure*"?

Wishing you a most beautiful MAY!



AUSMD Inc. Annual AGM - Saturday, 23 August 2025 at

Parliament House, Brisbane, Queensland

Plan for activities to extend over the 3-day event from 22, 23 and 24th August.

The online meeting includes the Annual General Meeting with a General Social Meeting following, after morning tea break. We welcome members and guests to stay online with us for both meetings).

Please Note: A detailed Agenda, Minutes of the Previous AGM, Treasurers Report, information regarding further activities from Thursday, 21 August-Sunday 24 August am, and Zoom Log in details, and any other pertinent information will be forwarded 3-4 weeks prior to the AGM.

In the meantime, below is a brief outline of the AGM/General Meeting Event on Saturday 23 August 2025 for your information.

9:30 am – Opening of the AGM

11:00 am – Close of the AGM

11:00 am – Simply Sweet Morning Tea

11:30 am – General/Social Meeting opens

1:00 pm – Hot buffet lunch

1:35 pm – Speaker

2:30 pm – General/Social Meeting closes

If you have not received your Advance Notice of AUSMD Annual General meeting email, please contact secretary@mayflowersociety.org.au





The Sydney Scheme

A new resource

by Lisa Apfel

The development of this resource had its earliest beginnings with the discovery of my American ancestor's migration to Australia in 1877. Unbeknownst to me he was my gateway ancestor back to the Mayflower and the start of a new research direction. Discovering his ship of arrival didn't seem extraordinary at the time but with more research I uncovered the story of the first shiploads of American and Canadian emigrants leaving North America. Skip forward a few years.

The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants, of which I am a member, is a young society looking at building its membership. Ideas on where to find potential emigrants from North America have been canvassed and that was the prompt I needed to pursue this project.

The ship my great great grandfather sailed on was the *Annie H Smith*. It was one of five ships that left New York bound for Sydney in 1877 and 1878. They were part of a scheme that provided a subsidised passage to the colony of New South Wales, of which Sydney was the principal city. The American newspapers called it the Sydney Scheme. My ancestor James William Tibbetts and his brother Waldo are two passengers confirmed to be Mayflower descendants. With nearly one thousand emigrants on five ships I reasoned there may be more. The passenger lists for all five ships have been transcribed and for any passengers born in the U.S.A. or Canada I have trawled through the archives in an effort to provide more detailed information on them to enable future descendants to get a jump start on their research. References to them in the 1860 and 1870 US Federal Censuses, 1861 and 1871 Canada Censuses, various State Censuses, American and Australian newspapers, American and Australian vital records, wills, and even New Zealand and South African sources, have been included.

After compiling the data a new free website was created. It provides access to all the research which includes the passenger lists, in depth data on the North American passengers, links to relevant newspaper articles and links to Government correspondence about the scheme. Many of the North American's did not stay and returned home so the resource could be useful to researchers in the U.S.A. and Canada too. The site is at <https://sites.google.com/view/thesydneyscheme/home>.



Keep an eye our on our website, we are about to lauch an areas for *Members Only* -

<https://www.mayflowersociety.org.au/>



Over the next month or two, we will be releasing changes to our AUSMD website which will include a *Members Only* area. Here, AUSMD, Inc members of our society will be able to view, as an example, videos of our highly successful *Pilrim 101* series.

This area of our website will grow as we collect and build on our resources.

It will be an exciting new enhancement and we look forward to sending you information via email on how you, as a AUSMD, Inc. member can access this area of our website.

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

Member Profile template link

The Australian Society of
Mayflower Descendants. Inc.

Training and Education Series



Pilgrim 101 Series 1-5 series is complete. We are waiting for the Series 6 and beyond videos to be released.

Come and join us for our June Presentation

"Meet the Pilgrims"

Presented **LIVE!!!**
by
Trainor, Lori Coffey



WHEN:

Saturday 14th June 2025
TIME: 8:00AM (Perth, Western Australia)
10:00 AM (Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney, Australia)

Friday 13th June 2025
5:00 PM (Los Angeles & Phoenix USA)
Friday 6:00 PM (Denver, USA)
Friday 7:00 PM (Houston & Chicago, USA)
Friday 8:00 PM (Tampa & New York, USA)

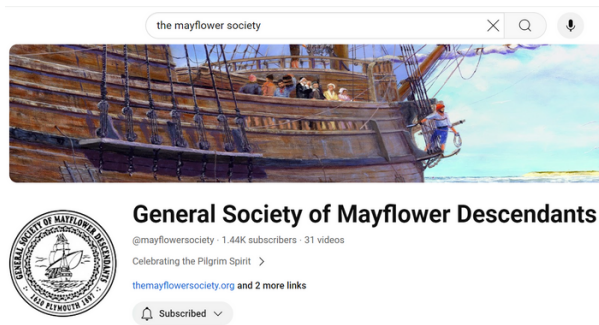
Monthly Activities for AUSMD Members -

Meet the Pilgrims

presented by Lori Coffey

Be sure to join us for the next presentation on
Saturday 14th June 2025 - RSVP to receive the link
to the meeting via

secretary@mayflowersociety.org.au



Did you know the General Society of Mayflower Descendants have a YouTube channel?

You can locate it via -

<https://www.youtube.com/@mayflowersociety>

You will find many interesting videos including some recipes where you can recreate the food of the Pilgrims.

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

Ann Chauvet - 5th June
Evangeline Isham - 8th June
Ken Whittemore - 8th June
Matilda Lea - 26th June
Lily Granger - 29th June
Violet Granger - 29th June
Christine Schlosser - 19th July
Cary Stone-Greenstein - 24th July
Jeanette Wells - 26th July
Steve Arnold - 6th August
Jessica Schleinzer - 12th August
Graham Andrews - 14th August
Colin Harrison - 15th August
Luke Isham - 19th August
Greg Geoghegan - 23rd August
Marty Bobertz - 28th August





Anniversaries

Philip Koether & Marc Curyer - 27th June

Chris & Bill Elliott - 2nd July

Congratulations to all!



Quarterly Membership Overview as at June 2025

Total Membership			
Regular Members:	52	Australian Residents	33
Associate Members:	13	USA Residents:	17
Junior Members:	6	Overseas Residents:	2

Members by Family Groups			
John Alden	1	John Howland	9
John Billington	2	William White	3
William Bradford	3	Priscilla Mullins	1
William Brewster	3	Richard Warren	8
Stephen Hopkins	3	Thomas Rogers	1
James Chilton	3	Myles Standish	1
Edward Fuller	3	George Soule	9
Isaac Allerton	1		



The Australian Society of Mayflower
Descendants, Inc.

governor@mayflowersociety.org.au

<https://www.mayflowersociety.org.au>

Proudly Affiliated with:

- Federation of Australian Historical Societies - <https://www.history.org.au/>
- History Queensland - <https://www.historyqueensland.org.au/>
- The Royal Historical Society of Queensland - <https://www.queenslandhistory.org/>

please check out their websites for information and news on upcoming events.

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