



The North Carolina Society of
Mayflower Descendants

Society Member
Handbook

Table of Contents

A Brief History of Hereditary Societies in the U. S. and The Society of Mayflower Descendants	4
The Beginning of the Mayflower Society	5
The Formation of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants	8
The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina	10
The First and Other Early Meetings of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina	11
The Formation of Colonies in North Carolina	14
North Carolina Society Governors	15
The Mayflower Cup	16
General Society Governance	17
N. C. Constitution and By-Laws	19

A Brief History of Hereditary Societies in the U. S. and The Society of Mayflower Descendants

Hereditary and historical societies in America have been around for a long time. Perhaps the oldest in America is the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts originally chartered in 1638 to train young officers to serve in the militias of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Today, it is an exclusive fraternal society.

The New England Society in the City of New York was formed in 1805. Its original mission was to “commemorate the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers; to encourage the study of New England history; to establish a library; and to promote charity, good fellowship, and social intercourse among its members”. Originally, the New England Society held its annual dinner in celebration of the anniversary of the Pilgrim’s landing on Plymouth Rock.

The Pilgrim Society was formed in 1820 to preserve the history of Plymouth and in 1824 the society opened the Pilgrim Hall Museum to the public. The organization now operates as the Pilgrim Hall Museum.

The Pilgrim Record Society was formed December 30, 1875, in New York and ceased operations about 1881.

So, what led to the formation of the Society of Mayflower Descendants?

There was a period of rapid economic growth began in in America in the 1870’s through 1900. This period was later called the Gilded Age, perhaps due to Mark Twain’s 1873 novel *The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today*. Significant wage growth in America brought a large influx of immigrants from Europe. In 1876, America celebrated its Centennial.

The combination of America’s economic prosperity, the Centennial and immigration produced a wave of patriotism and historical interest in America, and its founding, led to the formation many hereditary and patriotic organizations. The Sons of the American Revolution was formed in 1876 and the Daughters of the Revolution in 1890 and The Colonial Dames of America in 1890, to name a few.

The New England Society of the City of New York celebrated the Pilgrims, the Puritans and all other founders and citizens who added to the glory of New England. From its beginning, The New England Society of New York holds its annual celebration dinner on, December 22th, the day the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock, unless that day is a Sunday, in which case it is held on the 23rd. Indeed, the New England Society celebrated the landing of the Pilgrims.

As was the tradition, The New England Society of New York celebrated its annual dinner celebration on Saturday, December 22nd, 1894 at Sherry's, a banqueting hall located at 5th Avenue and 37th Street in New York City.

The Beginning of the Mayflower Society

On December 15, 1894 Richard H. Greene, Edward L. Norton and William Milne Grinnell distributed the following announcement to the general public:

"You are invited to be present at a conference of the descendants of the Mayflower Pilgrims, who landed at Plymouth in 1620. The meeting will be held at the rooms on the New York Genealogical Society, No. 23 West 44th Street, at 8 P.M., on the anniversary of the landing, Dec. 22d, 1894.

Please extend this invitation to any of your friends who had ancestors on the Mayflower."

The organizers purposefully chose not to compete with the New England Society and its mission to honor the Pilgrims, instead, it chose to commemorate the sentiment, the pioneer qualities, which caused a people to exile themselves to a foreign land, into an unexplored wilderness, in search of civil and religious liberty.

It is interesting, however, that the initial organizational meeting was held the same evening as the annual dinner of The New England Society of New York.

Twenty individuals, in addition to the three organizers, attended the preliminary meeting Society of the Mayflower Descendants at the New York Genealogical Society. At this meeting a committee was named to explore the formation of the Mayflower Society. Appointees to the organizing committee were Richard Henry Greene, Chairman, J. Bayard Backus, Edward Clinton Lee, Walter Scott Allerton, Joseph Jermain Slocum, Edward Loudon Norton and William Milne Grinnell.

Richard H. Greene was the primary organizer of the Society of Mayflower Descendants. Mr. Greene's New York Society number was #1 and after the formation of the General Society in 1987, his General Society number was also #1. In 1984, Mr. Greene was the Librarian of the New York Genealogical Society, where the organizational meeting was held, and he was named the Chairman of the organizing committee.

On February 22, 1985, the committee met to further discuss the Society's formation and elected Mr. Norton as treasurer.

The committee met again on March 28, 1895. At this meeting it was decided not to elect offices for the new society until the annual meeting, as provided for in its by-laws, until the first annual meeting to be held on November 22nd 1985, the anniversary date of the signing of the original "Compact". At the meeting Mr. Greene was elected temporary chairman, Mr. Norton, temporary secretary, and Mr. Grinnell, temporary treasurer, until the first meeting. At this meeting Bayard Backus, Edward Clinton

Lee, Walter Scott Allerton and Joseph Jermain Slocum was elected to the initial Board of Assistants, in addition to Messrs. Greene, Norton and Grinnell.

The committee adopted a constitution that established membership requirements. Any lineal descendant over 18 years of age of any passenger of the voyage of the Mayflower which terminated at Plymouth, Mass. December 1620, including all signers of "The Compact" shall be eligible to membership. They must be proposed, seconded and elected. They shall pay the initiation fee and dues and comply with the conditions in to constitution and the by-laws. The original entrance fee was \$10 and the annual dues were \$8.

Under the terms of the constitution the General Society had the power to establish state societies, when in its discretion there are sufficient members of the general society residing in the state to warrant such separate state organization.

The Society of Mayflower Descendants was the first of the new patriotic societies to include women in its membership.

The committee held its first formal meeting of the society on Wednesday, May 22, 1895, it being the first semi- annual meeting of the Society. A large number of the members elected were present at the first meeting. After a short business session, the members and their guests spent a very pleasant social time together.

The society was rapidly growing. Already, the society had received letters from 20 states requesting information about how to become members.

The first annual meeting was held on November 22, 1895. The following members were elected the first officers of the Society:

Henry E. Howland, Governor
Edward Clinton Lee, Deputy Governor
Joseph Jermain Slocum, Captain
Rev. Roderick Terry, D.D., Elder
Edward Loudon Norton, Treasurer
William Milne Grinnell, Secretary
Richard Henry Greene, Historian

By the time of the society's first annual meeting more than 100 members had been elected.

On December 27, 1895 The Society of Mayflower Descendants filed for incorporation with the New York Secretary of State. Its principal office was New York City. Its objects being "social, patriotic and historical, the society being formed by lineal descendants of the passengers on the ship *Mayflower* on her first voyage to New-England; to preserve the memory of the band of Pilgrims, and to collect and preserve their records, their history, and all facts relating to them, their ancestors, and their posterity".

The second annual meeting was held at the Hotel Waldorf in New York City on November 23rd, 1896. The following officers were elected at the meeting:

Henry E. Howland, Governor
John Taylor Terry, Deputy Governor
Joseph Jermain Slocum, Captain
Rev. Roderick Terry, D.D., Elder
Frederic Horace Hatch, Secretary
William Milne Grinnell, Treasurer
Richard Henry Greene, Historian
James Dougall Bissell, M.D., Surgeon

On December 15, 1896 the Board of Assistants met to propose a conference to be held at Plymouth, Massachusetts on January 12, 1897, with other societies, for the purpose of organizing, a General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Ten delegates were selected to attend the meeting in Plymouth.

The New England Society of Mayflower Descendants was incorporated in Connecticut on March 7, 1986.

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was organized on March 28, 1896 and received its charter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on April 1, 1896.

The Formation of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants

On June 17, 1896 the Board of Assistants of the New York society formed a committee to organize a Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a charter was granted July 1, 1896.

Twenty-seven delegates from the four state societies met in Plymouth on January 12, 1897. The delegates elected officers of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants to wit:

Governor - General,	Henry E. Howland, New York
Deputy Governors - General,	William Waldo Hyde, Connecticut Winslow Warren, Massachusetts Francis Olcott Allen, Pennsylvania
Captain - General	Myles Standish, M.D., Massachusetts
Elder-General	Rev. Roderick Terry, D.D., New York
Secretary - General	George Ernest Bowman, Massachusetts
Treasurer - General	James Mauran Rhodes, Massachusetts (Charlemagne Tower, Jr., was elected, but declined to serve and the board selected Mr. Bowman to serve)
Historian - General	Richard Henry Greene, New York
Surgeon - General	Orlando Brown, M.D., Connecticut
Assistants - General	Howland Davis, New York Percy Coe Eggleston, Connecticut William Molthrop Stark, Connecticut Rev. Edward Lord Clark, D.D., Massachusetts Frank William Sprague, Massachusetts Edward Clinton Lee, New York Josiah Granville Leach, Pennsylvania

During the convention the Board adopted the Constitution and By-Laws of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. The by-laws established the officers as the Governor - General, Deputy Governor- General, Captain- General, Elder-General, Secretary- General, Treasurer- General, Historian – General, and Surgeon – General. These seven officers along with seven Assistants composed the Board of Assistants.

A General Congress was established to be the Government of the Society. When the General Congress is not in session, the Board of Assistants has all the powers and authority of the General Congress except that it cannot amend the Constitution or the By-Laws. The General Congress consists of representatives of each State Society. The General Congress elects the officers and the seven Assistants of the Society and one Deputy Governor-General and one Assistant Governor from each State Society, except for the State Society to which the Governor – General belongs. The By-Laws state that the General Congress

will meet every third year in Plymouth, Massachusetts. During non-Congress years, the General Board of Assistants meeting is hosted by one of the State Societies.

The first Triennial Congress of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants was held at Plymouth on September 6, 1897.

Every three years each State Society will nominate a Deputy Governor – General and an Assistant General to represent the State Society at all General Board of Assistants meetings of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. The Deputy Governor General and the Assistant General will be approved by a majority of the Board of Assistants and serve on the General Board of Assistants. The term of each State's Deputy Governor – General and Assistant General is three years.

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina

The North Carolina Society of Mayflower Descendants received its charter from the General Society of Mayflower Descendants at the 10th triennial convention held at Plymouth, Massachusetts on September 2, 1924. North Carolina was the 19th chartered and the only state chartered south of the District of Columbia. The petition for the charter was signed by 22 residents of North Carolina who were Society members in other states.

Addison Pierce Monroe, of Providence, Rhode Island was Governor General of the General Society and was a frequent visitor to Asheville, North Carolina. While in Asheville he helped local organizers to take the proper steps to form a Society in North Carolina. Burnham Standish Colburn, of Baltimore, who joined the Biltmore Forest Company in 1920 as Vice President and bought a (second) home in Biltmore Forest. With the assistance of Macon Rush "Mike" Dunnagan, Burnham Standish Colburn obtained the signatures of members of several state societies, who lived in North Carolina, to sign the petition for the charter.

Signers Of The Petition to Establish the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina

From Baltimore:	Burnham Standish Colburn	NC # 1 GS # 44
	William Cullen Colburn (Burnham's son)	NC # 20 DS # 100
	Chester Pierce Monroe (also had a home in Ashville)	NC #3 GS # 139
	James G. K. McClure, Jr.	NC #12 GS # 260
	Luria Lee Lyons	NC #13 GS # 924
	Mrs. T. D. Lovell	
From Asheville:	Mrs. John Grier Baird	NC #4 GS # 375
	Lee A. Folger	NC #5 GS # 55
	Macon Rush Dunnagan	NC #2 GS # 756
From Charlotte:	Leonard Tufts	NC #7 GS #1679
From Pinehurst:	Mrs. Edward Cyrus Winslow	NC #6 GS # 714
From Tarboro:	Dr. Elmer S. Waring	
From Raleigh:	Benjamin Franklin Folger	
From Dodson:	Mrs. Roderick Belton John	NC #8 GS # 506
From Fayetteville:	Mrs. Frank P. Hall	NC #9 GS # 1478
From Belmont:	Miss Mary Wilson Pruet	NC #10 GS # 78
From Lenoir:	Horace Waldo Porter	NC #11 GS # 914
From Greensboro:	Claude Remulus Dunnagan	NC #15 GS # 757
From Winston-Salem:	Mrs. Franklin L. Townsend	NC #19 GS # 435
From Durham:	Edward K. Powe, Jr.	NC #17 GS # 57
From West Durham:	Miss Laura Delphina Worth	
From Guilford College:	Mrs. Maude D. Shackelford	NC #18 GS # 900

Other Charter Members of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina

There were 21 charter members of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina. In addition to the 18 charter members who signed the petition for the charter, there were three other charter members of the North Carolina Society.

From Asheville	May Love Rhodes	NC # 14	GS # 2446
From West Durham	Edward Know Powe	NC # 16	GS # 56
From Charlotte	Laura Holmes Reilley	NC # 21	GS # 2700

The First and Other Early Meetings of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina

The First Meeting of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina was held at the home of Burnham Standish Colburn in Biltmore Forest with on November 22, 1924, with 14 of the original applicants present. At the meeting the following initial officers were elected:

Burnham Standish Colburn (Asheville)	Governor
Leonard Tufts (Pinehurst)	Deputy Governor
Chester Pierce Monroe (Asheville)	Secretary – Treasurer
Macon Rush Dunnagan (Charlotte)	Historian
James G.K. McClure, Jr. (Asheville)	Elder

Board of Assistants:

- Lee A. Folger (Charlotte)
- Mrs. James Grier Baird (Charlotte)
- Mrs. T.D. Rhodes (Asheville)
- L. Lyons Lee (Asheville)
- James K. Powe (Durham)

It should be noted that Macon Rush “Mike” Dunnagan, the new Society’s Historian, was on the staff of the Asheville Citizens-Times, and as a result numerous articles were published by the paper for many years. Articles published by the Asheville Citizens-Times provided a substantial amount of information related to the history of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina.

The Second Annual Meeting was held at the George Vanderbilt Hotel in Asheville on November 28, 1925. The keynote speaker was Harold G. Murray, of New York City and Secretary General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Mr. Murray praised the North Carolina Society as one of the most successful societies after one year. In its first year the Society grew from 21 charter members to 50 members. Burnham Standish Colburn, a banker in Asheville, was unanimously re-elected Governor at the business session preceding the dinner.

The Fifth Annual Meeting met at the Grove Park in on December 1, 1928. Howard Bement, the headmaster of the Asheville School for Boys was the principal speaker. Burnham Standish Colburn was re-elected Governor. The Society had 134 members.

The Seventh Annual meeting was held on November 29, 1930. Burnham Standish Colburn was re-elected Governor.

The Eighth Annual Meeting was held at the George Vanderbilt Hotel on November 21, 1931. Burnham Standish Colburn was again elected Governor. The Mayflower Cup was presented to members and guests to be presented to the State Literary and Historical association. The Mayflower Cup replaced the Patterson Memorial Cup that was discontinued several year earlier. The Mayflower Cup was intended to stimulate literary production and interest in the state of North Carolina.

The Ninth Annual meeting was held at the George Vanderbilt Hotel on November 19, 1932. Burnham Standish Colburn was elected Governor and Harry W. Plummer was elected Deputy Governor. Mr. Colburn was visiting his daughter in Holland, so Mr. Plummer presided over the meeting. Kingsland Van Winkle, Society Counselor, addressed and updated the members and guests about the Mayflower Cup that was presented to the State Literary and Historical association as a memorial of the landing of the Pilgrims in Plymouth in 1620. The large silver cup, designed by William W. Dodge of Biltmore Forest, was presented to the historical association to stimulate interest in the state of literature. The Mayflower cup is housed in the Hall of History in Raleigh. Each year a replica of the cup will be presented to a North Carolina author who is judged to publish and outstanding original work. The Society had 144 members.

The Tenth Annual Meeting was held on November 18, 1933 at the George Vanderbilt Hotel. Harry W. Plummer was elected Governor of the Society succeeding Burnham Standish Colburn, who has served as Governor since the Society's founding. Mr Plummer was a civil engineer and former mayor of Asheville. He congratulated Burnham Standish Colburn for being elected Governor – General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants at the triennial Congress held in September 1933. Kingsland Van Winkle was elected Deputy Governor and Sam J. Ervin, Jr. was elected Counselor during the business meeting.

The Twelfth Annual Meeting was held on November 30, 1935 at the George Vanderbilt Hotel. Kingsland Van Winkle was elected Governor, succeeding Harry W. Plummer. Governor – General Burnham Standish Colburn, the General Society addressed the group. He said that the depression had hit the Mayflower Society rather hard. About 1,000 active members quit paying their dues and that the society was now beginning a drive to bring them back into the fold.

The Sixteenth Annual Meeting was held in Winston – Salem on December 2, 1939. Herbert D. Miles, of Asheville, Deputy Governor was one of the principal speakers. Also addressing the group was Dr. Ronald E. Rontdhaler, president of Salem College. A report was given on the 15th Congress of the General Society which met in Plymouth in September. Additionally a report was given of a presentation of an American Flag that was given to the General Society in honor of Burnham Standish Colburn, who served as Governor – General and Governor of the North Carolina Society for ten years.

The 30th Annual Meeting was held on November 21, 1953 at the Biltmore Forest County Club. Walter M. Pratt, of Boston and Governor General of the General Society was the principal speaker. He spoke about the Society's work in perpetuating the memory and ideals of the Pilgrim Fathers. He told the group that a Colonial dwelling in Plymouth had been purchased to serve as the Society's headquarters to "foster the ideals of freedom and individual initiative exemplified by the Mayflower pilgrims".

The 32nd Annual Meeting was held on November 19, 1955 at the Carolina Hotel in Pinehurst. Ralph S. Cushman, Bishop of the Methodist Church (retired) was the principal speaker. He spoke on the "Mayflower Tradition".

The Formation of Colonies in North Carolina

In 1943, the Asheville Colony, the first colony in the state, was established at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Bynum, of Macon Avenue in Asheville according to an article published by the Asheville-Citizens Times on October 27, 1974 at the celebration of the Society's 50th Anniversary, while there no minutes or other information about the Asheville Colony's first meeting. The Charlotte Colony was formed January 16, 1944. The Piedmont Colony was established October 18, 1944 and the colony's charter was granted November 2, 1974. The Central Carolina Colony was formed November 9, 1947. The October 1974 article said that other colonies followed shortly, with the last, the Northeast Colony formed in 1974. At that point, the North Carolina Society had six colonies with over 400 members.

North Carolina Society Governors

1924-1933	Burnham Standish Colburn * (<i>Past Governor General</i>) - (see note below)
1934-1935	Harry W. Plummer *
1936-	Kingsland VanWinkle *
1937-1940	Laura Holmes Reilly *
1941-1942	Herbert D. Miles *
1943-1945	Dr. Wallace E. Caldwell *
1946-1947	Ralph B. Coit *
1948-	Dr. Douglas L. Rights *
1949-	Mabel L. Briggs Byerly *
1950-1951	Senator Samuel J. Ervin, Jr. *
1952-1960	Ruth Reilley Wilkes *
1961-1966	Sturgis E. Leavitt *
1967-1972	Annie M. Walker Powell *
1973-1978	Samuel B. Dees *
1979-1981	John Alden Williamson *
1982-1984	Charles H. Yarborough, Jr.
1985-1987	Shirley R. Turner Spaeth
1988-1990	Russell E. Southworth *
1991-1993	Marvella Davis Dorman
1994-1996	Romulus F. Moser *
1996-1999	Eleanor Edwards Blackwell *
1999-2002	Thomas R. Topping
2002-2005	Jean Cutler Slater
2005-2008	Martha E. Ward
2008-2011	Franklin N. Horton
2011-2014	John W. McDaniel
2014-	Michael C. Keleher

* - Deceased

Note: Burnham Standish Colburn (NC #1 & first NC Mayflower State Governor) was the *Governor General* of the General Society for six years, from 1933 to 1939. He presented the charter to the Florida Mayflower Society when it was formed in 1937.

The Mayflower Cup (by G. H. Jones, 2006)

The North Carolina Literary and Historical Association was formed on 23 Oct. 1900 for the purposes of the "collection, preservation, production, and dissemination" of North Carolina literature and history and the "encouragement of public and school libraries; the establishment of an historical museum; the inculcation of a literary spirit among our people; the correction of printed misrepresentations concerning North Carolina; and the engendering of an intelligent, healthy State pride in the rising generations." North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Walter Clark was elected president, and the association's membership included the historical, political, and social elite of the state.

Although several historical organizations already existed, none had a statewide focus. Consequently, the new association launched an ambitious program for arousing public support. In its first year, members wrote and shepherded through the General Assembly an act establishing a North Carolina Day in the public schools and another encouraging the establishment of rural libraries. In its second year, it sponsored at Manteo a celebration of the Roanoke voyages of the 1580s, and in its third year, the association created the North Carolina Historical Commission (later the Department of Archives and History). The period was so vibrant that the Historical Commission's first major publication, *Literary and Historical Activities in North Carolina, 1900-1905* (1907), contained 623 pages.

Beginning in 1905, the association presented the Patterson Award to the North Carolina author of a book-fiction, poetry, or nonfiction-judged to be the best published the previous year. President Theodore Roosevelt presented the first award to John Charles McNeill in the Senate Chamber of the State Capitol, but the award was discontinued after 1922 when space ran out on the original cup. In 1930 the Society of Mayflower Descendants in North Carolina presented the Mayflower Society Cup to the Literary and Historical Association. A small replica of the cup, which is silver with an image of the *Mayflower* standing on a base of Belgian marble, was given annually to the author of an "original nonfiction work of outstanding excellence." The awarding of the Mayflower Cup ceased in 2002 because of the high expense of the program.

General Society Governance

(by Secretary General Susan E. Roser, 2017)

The Government of the General Society of the Mayflower Descendants is vested in a General Congress that consists of the General Officers of the General Society (Executive Committee Officers, Formers Governors General, Former Assistant Governors General, Deputy Governors General and Assistant Governors General) as well as Delegates from the Member Societies. Each Member Society is entitled to one Delegate vote for every fifty members or majority fraction thereof.

There are three instances whereby voting is carried out at Congress:

- To approve motions
- To amend the bylaws
- To elect Executive Committee officers

The GSMD Bylaws are specific as to who can vote, as well as the number of votes and delegates allotted for each society. Voting on bylaws and voting to elect officers are carried out differently.

In addition to their Deputy Governor General (DGG) and Assistant General (AG), each Member Society sends delegates to Congress to represent their Society. Each Society is entitled to one member for every fifty members or majority fraction thereof, based on membership (including Junior Life Members) as of July 1st of the Congress year, with a minimum of three delegates allowed. Member Society Secretaries must submit this membership total to the Secretary General by July 1 of said Congress year in order to determine the number of delegates allowed.

There is a common misconception that the number of delegates determines the number of votes to which a Society is entitled. The addition of delegates with the DGG and AG officers does not raise the number of votes for their Society. Voting on bylaw amendments are carried out by Member Societies, not individual officers.

AMENDING THE BYLAWS

Amendments to the Bylaws can be adopted only at Congress, by a vote of the representatives of the Member Societies present. In order for an amendments to pass, there must be a two-thirds majority, with each Society present entitled to one vote. If all 53 Member Societies were represented, the amendment would require affirmative votes from 36 Member Societies to pass.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Executive Committee Officers are elected by a majority electoral vote of the Member Societies present and voting. Each Member Society is entitled to one electoral vote for every two hundred members or fraction thereof. The total electoral vote of any Society will not be more than five electoral votes or less than one electoral vote. A Member Society may divide their electoral

votes if they so choose. Elections are by ballot, except if there is only one nominee for an office, in which case the vote for that office may be by voice vote.

Note: Of the three Members-at-Large who are elected to the Executive Committee, at least one, with a maximum of two are from a State Society whose greater portion lies West of the 91st West Meridian (Longitude) and East of the 89th East Meridian (Longitude).

At the 2017 Congress, a proposed bylaw amendment, if approved, will help to streamline the process in which Members-at-Large officers are elected. Instead of being elected by a majority electoral vote, the Members-at-Large positions will be elected by a plurality vote of those Member Societies present and voting.



**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE SOCIETY
OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I-NAME**

The name of this Society shall be the “**Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina.**”

ARTICLE II-OBJECT

The object of this Society shall be:

Sec. 1 To perpetuate to a remote posterity, the memory of our Pilgrim Fathers. To maintain and defend the principle of civil and religious liberty as set forth in the Mayflower Compact, “For the glorie of God and advancement of the Christian faith and honor of our countrie.”

Sec. 2 To cherish and maintain the ideals and institutions of American freedom, and to oppose any theories or actions that threaten their continuity. To transmit with an undiminished heritage of liberty and law, .the spirit, the purity of purpose and steadfastness of will of the Pilgrim Fathers to those who shall come after us.

Sec. 3 To promote by the organization of a state body, the interests that are common to all of the Colonies of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina.

Sec. 4 To promote the interest that are common to all of the State Societies, and thus the General Society.

ARTICLE III-MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1 All persons, over eighteen years of age, who are descended from a passenger on the Mayflower on the voyage which terminated at Plymouth, New England, in December, 1620, shall be eligible for membership, except:

(a) That no person shall be eligible for membership-regular, life member, junior life member or junior member-who is pledged to, or advocates, the overthrow, by force or violence, of the government of the United States, or that of any State or Territory, or who has been guilty of other treasonable practices; or who is not of good moral character.

(b) That no one may become a member unless personally acceptable to this Society.

Sec. 2 This Society shall have the right to expel from its membership any person for any of the causes listed in (a) and (b) above after investigation and examination of the causes. The investigation and examination will be by the State Board of Assistants. The vote to expel will be based on the Board of Assistants' recommendation to the membership at the annual meeting.

Sec. 3 Persons under eighteen years of age, who are otherwise eligible as defined above may become junior life members without vote until they have attained the age of eighteen.

Sec. 4 Persons under eighteen years of age, who are otherwise eligible as defined above may become junior members without vote.

ARTICLE IV-OFFICERS

Sec. 1 The officers of this Society shall be a Governor, Deputy Governor, Counselor, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Elder, Captain, Surgeon, and Librarian.

Sec. 2 The officers listed in Section 1 above, with the Governor of each Colony, the past Governors of the North Carolina Society, and the Chairmen of the Standing Committees, shall constitute the Board of Assistants.

ARTICLE V-MEETINGS

Sec. 1 Annual Meetings of this Society shall be held on or about November 21st the anniversary of the signing of the Mayflower Compact, at some place to be determined by the Colony coordinating the meeting.

Sec. 2 Special meetings of the Society may be held at any specified time or place at the call of the governor, or upon written request of ten members. The object of such meeting shall be stated in the notice and no other business shall be transacted, except by unanimous consent of all members present and voting.

Sec. 3 Thirty days' notice, in writing, shall be given of all annual and special meetings of the Society. Such notices will be sent to addresses of members as they appear on the books of the Society. Notices of meetings of the Board of Assistants shall be given by letter or telephone or e-mail or as specified by the Board of Assistants.

Sec. 4 Twenty members of the Society shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting except the Board of Assistants meetings.

Sec. 5 The order of business at all stated meetings of the Society or Board of Assistants shall be as follows:

1. Approval of minutes of previous stated and intervening special meetings.
2. Communications
3. Reports of officers
4. Reports of committees
5. Unfinished business
6. New business
7. Nominations and elections of officers in the applicable years
8. Adjournment

ARTICLE VI-AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1 Any proposed amendment of the Constitution and By-Laws shall be submitted in writing to the Chairmen of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee for review and recommendation, two months prior to any regular meeting of the Board of Assistants. After review and rewording, if necessary, copies of the proposed amendments shall be sent to the members of the Board of Assistants at least one month before the next regular meeting of that board.

Sec. 2 Any proposed amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws will be reviewed and forwarded by the Board of Assistants to the general membership of the State Society with a recommendation of approval or disapproval using the "Tar Heel Pilgrim Newsletter.

Sec. 3 A copy of the proposed amendment shall be put in the Tar Heel Pilgrim Newsletter prior to the next regular meeting of the State Society for review and approval by the general membership.

Sec. 4 Such amendments shall become effective upon approval of the membership at the annual meeting. Approval shall be by two-thirds vote of the members present and voting. The vote on amendments may be by open ballot.

Franklin N. Horton

Franklin N. Horton
Governor

Frances Emory

Frances Emory
Secretary
11/05/2011

Date



BY-LAWS

NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY

OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

ARTICLE-1

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

AND BOARD OF ASSISTANTS

Sec. 1 The Governor shall appoint the Chairman of the Nominating Committee from the Society at large and shall request the Governor of each Colony to appoint one member to the Committee from their respective Colony. The Committee shall meet together in a body or carry out a conference by written correspondence, telephonic or other electronic means. The Chairman will circulate copies there-of to all conferees. The deliberations of said Committee shall be concluded by such time that the report can be published in that issue of the Tar Heel Pilgrim Newsletter, prior to the annual State Meeting, wherein an election is to be held. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented at the Annual Meeting, to be followed by a proper call by the presiding officer for nominations from the floor.

Sec. 2 The officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting in the years the Triennial Meetings of the General Congress of the Mayflower Society are held. They shall assume office immediately following the Annual Meeting at which they are elected and shall continue to serve until their successors are elected.

Sec. 3 All officers of the Society are elected for three years and may be re-elected as often as the Society sees fit, with exception of the Governor who shall not serve more than two consecutive

terms without a vote of two-thirds of the members present at the Annual meeting of the State Society.

Sec. 4 At the Annual Meeting of the State Society, preceding the Triennial Meeting of the General Congress of the Mayflower Society, a Deputy Governor General and an Assistant General to represent the Society on the General Board of Assistants shall be nominated for a three year term. These officers may be re-nominated. One of these officers may be the Governor of the State Society. In event of a vacancy of either or both of these offices, nominations shall be made at the next annual meeting following the vacancy. Election is by the General Congress. In the event that the Deputy Governor General and/or the Assistant General cannot attend the meeting of the General Board of Assistants, the Governor may appoint a representative(s) for that meeting.

ARTICLE II-DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1 The Governor shall preside at all meeting of the Society and of the Board of Assistants, appoint all standing and special committees and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nomination Committee. The Governor shall have an inventory of the Society's properties. The Governor shall represent the Society whenever necessary or appoint a representative. The Governor shall give a written report at the annual meeting.

Sec. 2 The Deputy Governor shall perform all the duties of the office of the Governor during the absence or disability of the Governor. During the absence or disability of the Deputy Governor, the duties of the Governor shall be performed by the following officers in the following succession: Counselor, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Elder, Captain, Surgeon, and Librarian.

Sec. 3 The Counselor shall be an attorney-at-law, and shall render legal aid and opinions on matters pertaining to the Society when requested to do so by the Governor or by the Board of Assistants.

Sec. 4 The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings and proceedings of the Society and of the Board and send minutes of each meeting within 30 days to the officers of the Society to be corrected and returned within 30 days-after which a corrected copy shall be mailed to all members of the Board of Assistants within the next 30 days. The Recording Secretary shall make such notices and communications as may be ordered by the Society or by the Governor and perform all duties usually appertaining to such office.

Sec. 5 The Corresponding Secretary in conjunction with the Historian shall keep records of all deaths, transfers in and out of the Society, resignations and reinstatements, sending the information to the Treasurer, the Newsletter Editor and to the General Society Historian General. The report to the Historian General may be by electronic means or use of the approved General Society forms. The Corresponding Secretary shall make annual and triennial reports to the Secretary General; send to the Secretary General accurate alphabetical list of delegates to the General Congress; order Past Governor's medal every three years or when a Governor leaves office. The Corresponding Secretary is the roll keeper of the State Society and will notify each non-dues paying member his status prior to being dropped from the State Society by the 31st of December each calendar year.

Sec. 6 The Treasurer shall take charge of all funds belonging to the Society; keep suitable books or account; charge, collect and receive all fees, dues and all other money payable to the Society; make all necessary disbursements; invest, with the approval of the Finance Committee, all special funds of the Society; report on the condition of the treasury at all stated meeting of the Society and to the Governor or Board of Assistants at any time they may ask for a report. The treasurer shall, if the board of Assistants requires it, furnish bond in excess of the estimated funds in his possession at any time for the handling of the funds, the premium of such bond to be paid from the funds of the Society; notify the Corresponding Secretary of changes in the membership so that the membership list may be maintained accurately.

Sec. 7 The Historian shall examine and report on all worksheet papers of applicants and shall be custodian of all blank applications and worksheet papers. The Historian shall keep a detailed record of all signed certificates, and shall perform any other duties assigned by the Board of Assistants. The Historian shall, when practicable, assist applicants in filling out their worksheet papers and shall approve the new members, assigning them a state number. The Historian will prepare the appropriate membership certificate, junior life member certificate or junior membership certificate as required. Membership certificates will be presented at the annual state meeting or dispatched as necessary to the newly approved member.

Sec. 8 the Elder shall officiate, when called upon, at regular meetings of the Society and shall open the meeting with prayer or devotional service, and shall give the benedictions. The Elder shall have been ordained as an Elder, Bishop, Minister, or Deacon of a Christian Church.

Sec. 9 The Captain shall carry out all orders of the Governor, and shall act as marshal at parades and on occasions of ceremony. The Captain shall have custody of the flags, and shall carry out such other duties pertaining to the position of Captain as the Governor may direct.

Sec 10 the Surgeon shall have been duly admitted to the practice of medicine, and shall be under the orders of the Governor and the Board of Assistants.

Sec. 11 The Librarian shall provide for the care and use of books and periodicals of the Society and perform such other services which are usually incidental to such an office.

ARTICLE III-BOARD OF ASSISTANTS

The Board of assistants shall have general charge of the affairs of the Society. The Board shall meet during the annual meeting of the Society and at such times as it shall be called together by the Governor. One-third of the members shall constitute a quorum unless changed in accordance with established parliamentary rules of order. The Board can adjust fees paid for applications, reinstatements, supplemental applications and application copying. The board shall fill all vacancies that may occur in the Board or offices of the Society for the remainder of the term. The Board of Assistants may drop from the rolls, by a two-thirds vote, any member who is shown to be prejudicial to the Society provided said member is given ample opportunity to appear before the Board in his own defense.

ARTICLE IV-COMMITTEES

Sec. 1 Every application for membership in this Society shall be made on a preliminary application blank provided by the Society. Such application shall bear the autograph signature of the candidate.

Sec. 2 After the preliminary application has been approved by the Membership Chairman, or by two members of the Membership Committee, the worksheet papers shall be issued, but only after the payment of the application fee. If the worksheet papers are not filled out in duplicate and filed with the Historian within three years after the approval of the preliminary application, such approval shall become void and the application process must start over by the applicant with the payment of additional fees established at that time.

Sec. 3 Any member may become a life member by payment at one time of an approved fee or during any fiscal year the amount set by the Board of Assistants and shall thereafter be exempt from paying annual State and General Society dues.

Sec. 4 A member of this Society, in good standing, may make application for Junior Life membership on behalf of any person under eighteen years of age and the application may be granted by the Board of Assistants after the required worksheet papers have been duly executed properly approved, and upon the payment to the State Society the amount set by the Board of Assistants. The member sponsoring said Junior Life Member may sign for the minor if the minor is of such an age as to not be able to write in cursive his signature. Said minor person shall thereafter be exempt from paying annual State and General Society dues. The Junior Life Member shall not be permitted to vote until he or she has reached the age of eighteen years.

Sec. 5 members of this Society may hold membership in other state societies.

Sec. 6 Life members of other state societies, residing in this state, may become active members of this Society by paying an annual fee of the amount set under provision made for regular members or by paying the fee for life membership.

Sec. 7 Regular dues paying members, in good standing, of other State Societies may become dual members of the North Carolina State Society by paying the annual State and General Society dues.

ARTICLE V-FEES AND DUES

Sec. 1 A non-refundable fee, to be set by the Board of Assistants, must accompany each application.

Sec. 2 Annual dues for each regular member shall be set by the Board of Assistants. Life members and Junior Life members are not subject to annual dues. The time of payment method of payment and the amount of all dues and fees shall be determined by the Board of Assistants.

Sec. 3 Life membership fees and gifts, bequests, or legacies which are designated to be added to capital funds shall be held in trust and invested by the Treasurer, with the approval of the Committee on finance, and only the income from such investments may be used for operation

expenses of the Society. Unrestricted gifts, bequests, or legacies may be used for operation expenses of the Society. Special gifts, bequests or legacies which designate or require special handling of both principle and income shall be handled accordingly.

Sec. 4 Members in good standing of their State Societies may have their memberships transferred to the North Carolina Society by paying a fee to be set by the Board of Assistants.

Sec. 5 Members in good standing, who may desire to present supplemental lines for approval, may obtain from the Membership Chair blanks for the preparation of said lines upon the payment of the non-refundable fee to be set by the Board of Assistants.

ARTICLE VI-COLONIES

Sec.1 The Board of Assistants may, at any time, authorize the formation of a Colony whenever ten or more members of this Society in good standing shall sign a request for a charter for such colony and file it with the Recording Secretary. The name of such new Colony shall be the form: "The _____ Colony of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina."

Sec. 2 Such Colony, after its formation has been authorized by the Board of Assistants, shall elect the following officers: (Colony) Governor, Vice (Colony) Governor, Secretary and Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer.) Such officers shall compose the board of Directors of the Colony, which shall consist of not more than five members, the fourth and fifth members selected by the Colony at its discretion. If any office in a colony becomes vacant, the Colony shall fill the vacancy within one month of the occurrence thereof. Should the vacancy not be filled within the said length of time, the Colony Governor shall appoint someone to fill the vacancy who shall serve until the next election of officers. The (Colony) Governor shall present a written report of the activities of the Colony at the annual meeting of the Society, and shall upon request, furnish the Board of Assistants with information concerning the Colony.

Sec. 3 Colonies may adopt such regulations and by-laws as they may deem proper, provided that such regulations and by-laws do not conflict with either the Constitution of the General Society or the State Society.

Sec. 4 If the applicants to whom a charter is granted, do not meet and organize a colony within six months after the granting of the charter, such action shall become void.

ARTICLE VII-PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The Society will use Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised as its Parliamentary Authority. A Parliamentarian will be appointed by the Governor on a permanent basis or as the situation requires.

ARTICLE VIII-AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the by-laws may be made in the same manner as amendments to the Constitution. See Article VI of the North Carolina Society of Mayflower Descendants state constitution.

Franklin N. Horton

Frances Emory

Franklin N. Horton
Governor

Frances Emory
Recording Secretary

Date: 11/05/2011

Change approved at 88th meeting renumbering By-Law numbers. Also by-Law Article IV – Committees: Second sentence changed to read “Such Application shall bear the autograph signature of the candidate.”