

"As one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many, yea in some sort to our whole nation."

- William Bradford

# Pilgrim News

*San Diego Colony of Mayflower Descendants*

Vol. 2, Issue 2, Governor William "Budd" Leaf

February 2026

## Governor's Message

### San Diego Colony Greetings!

Happy New Year to You and your Families as we begin 2026! First, thank you all for being a part of this organization which is dedicated to camaraderie among our membership, educating members through our Colony guest speaker program at Colony Meetings, as well as educating the general public about the Mayflower legacy by providing speakers to other organizations, schools and to individual Colonies. If any San Diego Colony Member would like to participate as a speaker or join our Colony Board, please contact either myself or one of our board members. We have been so fortunate to have many great volunteers in our Colony over the years . . . and we'd love to have you BE ONE OF US!

Speaking of great local speakers,



our November Compact meeting was our own Neil Greenwood. Neil is originally from England and also descends from Thomas Rogers. With his close ties to England and familiarity with research there, he was able over several years and visits to discover

brand new information about the Rogers family on their home turf. Thank you so much, Neil, for sharing both your enthusiasm and knowledge of your research with us. And also, big thanks to our California Mayflower Governor, Dr. Robert Lincoln, PhD, for joining us from Los Angeles (he is also a Rogers descendant).



Colony members in Period Dress at the Compact Day Meeting in November!

CA Society Membership: I've mentioned this many times now (sorry), however, California and other State Societies are no longer able to carry members who do not pay their yearly membership dues. So, as of January 1st, California members who are not current with their yearly dues will be deemed to be not active and thus will no longer receive State of general Society publications. This can be corrected immediately by emailing the CA Membership Secretary, Mr. Stephen Douglass ([mayflowersecretary@camayflower.org](mailto:mayflowersecretary@camayflower.org)) and letting him know that you want to keep your membership. Steve will let you know how to do that.

As is customary, at the conclusion of our Compact Meeting this past No-

vember, a number of 'Very Brave' colony members wearing Pilgrim attire posed for our traditional Compact Photo.

Thank you all, and Three HUZZAHS to US!

Our next Colony Meeting will be a BREAKFAST BRUNCH on Saturday, 21 February 2026, at the Green Dragon in Carlsbad. Our guest speaker will be Ms. Donna Watkins. Donna has published articles in magazines, journals, and newspapers, including the "Los Angeles Times." She is also the author of "Weaker Vessels: The Women and Children of Plymouth Colony". Her topic for us will be "The Hanging of Alice Bishop", Donna's ninth-great-grandmother. Have I intrigued you with that little snippet? It will be another guaranteed interesting program for us, so please attend if you're able. Our meetings are open to all.

*Budd Leaf, SD Colony Governor*

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## February 21, 2026 SD Colony Meeting Program

Our guest speaker is Donna Watkins. She is the author of “Diverse Gashes; Governor William Bradford, Alice Bishop and the Murder of Martha Clarke, Plymouth Colony 1648”, and “Women and Children of Plymouth Colony”. Her topic will be “*The Hanging of Alice Bishop*” whom she wrote about in her first book. Alice Bishop is her ninth-great-grandmother.

Donna’s career included work as a librarian at the Pasadena Public Library. Recently she has been a popular speaker to many historical organizations throughout California, sharing her research into the women and children Plymouth



Colony.

She has an undergraduate degree in American Studies (CSULA), and she holds graduate degrees in Library and Information Management (USC) and American Studies (CSUF). She resides in Fullerton, California, with her husband in a house full of quilts.

In *Diverse Gashes* we learn that "The brutal murder of Martha Clarke, daughter of Alice Martin Clarke Bishop and her husband, Richard, was an act of severe violence. Alice openly confessed to the crime and was tried, sentenced and executed within three

months - the first and only woman in Plymouth Colony to be hanged."

Michael Bishop, who has also studied this history wrote this about the book:

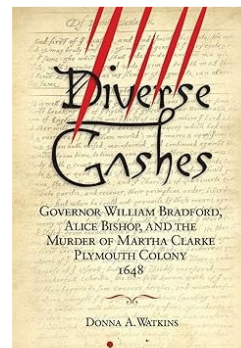
*The 1648 death of four-year-old Martha Clarke at the hands of her mother, Alice Bishop, has haunted Alice's descendants for centuries. As much a history of the Pilgrims as it is of Alice Bishop, Diverse Gashes*

*explores the culture of control and watchfulness that pervaded Plymouth Colony, providing the context that family historians have long sought."*

— *Michael Bishop*

*Motherhood & Murder in Plymouth Colony,*

Now we await new information regarding the



hanging!

## Alice Bishop, the 8th Woman .....

Courtesy of “[Eric’s Roots](#)”  
A descendant Damaris Bishop

“The investigation, under the order of Governor William Bradford, was conducted by John Howland, James Hurst, Robert Lee, John Shaw, Francis Cooke, James Cole, Giles Rickard, Richard Sparrow, Thomas Pope, Francis Billington, and William Nelson. At that time, Alice confessed to murdering her daughter with the knife.

Consequently a Court of Assistants hearing led by Gov. Bradford was held, then a General Court trial with a grand jury impaneled. Lastly, Alice Bishop was found guilty of felonious murder by a petit jury.

Alice Bishop was sentenced to be hanged by the neck until her body was dead. She was immediately taken to the place of execution, where the sentence was carried out.

Books have been written about



An early depiction of a Colonial woman being led to her execution.

mental illness in the colonies, and depression has been surmised to have been the cause of the murder. Look at these stats:

“It should be noted that Alice Martin Bishop was the eighth woman known to have been executed in the colonies. Prior to her, there were two in the Virginia Colony, one in Maine, and four in the Massachusetts Bay

Colony. Out of these seven, three of them were convicted of killing one of their children. Jane Champion was hanged in 1632 in James City, Virginia, for an unknown offense. Margaret Hatch was hanged on June 24, 1633, in James City, Virginia, for infanticide. Dorothy Talbye was hanged in 1639 in Massachusetts Bay Colony for killing her three-year-old daughter. Mary Latham (along with co-defendant James Britton) was hanged in 1642 in Massachusetts Bay Colony, possibly the only woman executed in America for adultery. Mrs. Cornish (unknown first name) was hanged in 1644 in Maine for murder. Mary Martin was hanged in 1646 in the Massachusetts Bay Colony for killing her infant daughter to cover up her unwed pregnancy. Margaret Jones was hanged on June 15, 1648, in the Massachusetts Bay Colony for witchcraft. “

## Pilgrims in Love

### Videos

The Mayflower Society has various educational videos posted on our [YouTube Channel](#). Just for fun I took a look and found something timely, We are always focused on how the passengers survived and we often forget about the more personal side of those men and women. Here is one video that you might want to watch:

“The Mayflower Society Presents:  
*Pilgrims In Love*”



To celebrate Valentine's Day, let's travel back in time to the 17th century to hear from three pilgrim women as they share their amazing love stories! One story involves a love triangle, the second tells of a scandalous affair and is filmed at the 1661 house where it happened, and the third tells a story of a father's love and the daughter who must make a choice.”

The other I enjoyed was “*Revolutionary Songs played on the Mayflower Meetinghouse Bells.*”

This interesting historical video narrated by Lisa Pennington, Governor General of the Society is a great tie in to America250!

One of the most recent renovations to the Mayflower Meetinghouse was the restoration of a

series of bells located in the tower of the building. The ten cast bronze bells in the tower were originally cast by the Meneely Bell Co. of Troy, New York, and have recently been refurbished by the talented Verdin Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. The Meetinghouse bells are ready just in time to celebrate the 4th of July! To honor both the Pilgrims and the Patriots, please enjoy this selection of revolutionary songs as they ring out across Plymouth's town square.



## A Token of Love, Colonial America Puzzle Purse Love Letters

Handwritten Valentines were popular in England and Western Europe from the 15th Century, a tradition that was brought to the American Colonies. But sometimes the lovelorn are at a loss for words. At such times, our Colonial friends might refer to English Letter-Writers, in book and pamphlet form, for advice in composing missives to their sweethearts. Among them, *The Amorous Gallant's Tongue Tipp'd with Golden Expressions: or, the Art of Courtship Refined.* ”

The poems and verses were written on slips of paper or posted in a newspaper by suitors for Valentine's Day. Verses were also transcribed onto handcrafted love-letters that were folded into puzzle purses as love tokens that were introduced by Pennsylvania-Germans. These puzzle purse love tokens were created on a one foot square of "laid paper" (with laid lines from the paper mold) was folded into a square "purse." The delightful Valentine was decorated with verse and decoration



My Dear this heart that you behold /  
When you these leaves unfold



1769 Georg Lang

on the exterior. Once fully opened, secret messages would be revealed inside and sometimes an additional token of love - a ring or a lock of hair.

1. Yes, when I don't see you, my darling, my heart is filled with dread and sorrow
2. And would at every moment spring apart in many thousand pieces.
3. I desire faithful love, wounded completely with right love.
4. For to love and not being loved back makes many a beautiful heart sad; but if both love, then two hearts are filled with joy.
5. My heart burns in the blaze of love, but it does not know how yours is doing. Is my heart like mine, then the love will persist.
6. My dear darling, our flames of love will come together with time.
7. Hold firmly on to your heart's love, like the tree to his branches, and the grapevine to its vine; So I will surrender my heart to you.
8. My heart, your heart, one heart, without any joking. The 26th December 1769.

[From Colonial Quills](#)

# Compact Day Meeting Photos



**San Diego Colony  
 Executive Board  
 2024-2026**

**Governor**

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Open

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**Decorations Chair**

None

**Education Chair**

Amy Conboy  
 conboyamy@gmail.com

**Parliamentarian**

Judith Reale

**Hospitality Chair**

June Carter  
 starmorn@outlook.com

Bill Peters, a gentleman of the old school—intelligent, witty, and possessed of a generous spirit—whose passing is a great loss to this colony, his family, and his friends.



Bill and Bev at the at the practice session for the Rose Parade and at chapter meetings below.



**Congratulations to our New Members!**

From Nov. 2025

- **Terri Kidd** ~ Myles Standish
- **Callie Leef**~ John Howland
- **Judi Anibaldi** ~ George Soule
- **Michael Huff** ~ Edward Doty
- **Deborah Isacksen** ~ Wm Brewster
- **Jacqueline Huff Badal** ~ Edward Doty
- **Rebecca O'Brien** ~ John Alden
- **Shane Dickinson** ~ Wm Brewster
- **Lori Newland Lorenz** ~ John Howland

**Do You Need a Badge?**  
 As members, we proudly display our names and the name of our Ancestor.



If you are a new member, a Mayflower Friend, or just need a new badge, follow these steps:

Contact June Carter at [starmorn@outlook.com](mailto:starmorn@outlook.com)  
 Include your name, your Ancestor's name, or names. They must be from an application or supplemental that has been verified by Plymouth. If you have several lines of ancestors, please check with June about a possible price increase.

Pay at a meeting or send your check for \$14.00 made payable to, "SD Colony of Mayflower Descendants" to:

**Connie Bloodworth  
 1005 Norte Vista  
 San Marcos, CA 92078**

# The San Diego Colony of Mayflower Descendants

## 2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION - - The deadline to apply is: May 1, 2026

This \$1,500 Scholarship will be awarded in May of 2026, with the winner recognized at our Spring Colony Meeting. The essay will be published in the Fall Issue of the SD Colony *Pilgrim News*. This scholarship is open to CURRENT College Freshmen and High School Seniors. When awarded, the scholarship funds will be sent to the college's financial aid office.

The following criteria must be met for the 2026 Scholarship Contest application process to be successful. Applicant must either be a San Diego Mayflower Colony Member, or be lineage-eligible to join the General Society of Mayflower Descendants AND have a bloodline relative who is a San Diego Colony member in good standing for 2026 (henceforth referred to as the 'member sponsor'). The member sponsor must have been a San Diego Colony member for at least a year as of the application date. Additionally, there is no restriction on residence of either the scholarship applicant or the member sponsor.

### **Applicant Contact Information:**

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number of Applicant: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of college or university where scholarship award would be sent (if known):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_(1) Are you a Member of the San Diego Colony \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No?

(2) If "No", then name, relationship, General Society Number and CA Society Number of your bloodline

### **San Diego Colony Member Sponsor:**

Name of your San Diego Colony Member Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Relationship to the Member Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Sponsor's General Society Number: \_\_\_\_\_ CA Society Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Application Instructions - - - Submit the following:**

Completed Scholarship Application (this page)

A Copy of High School transcript and, if appropriate, current College Transcript

A Letter of Reference from a Non-Family Member

A Mayflower essay no longer than 750 words addressing the following topic:

**"From the perspective of your Mayflower passenger ancestor, write a letter to a relative or friend in England or Holland describing the Mayflower voyage and arrival in America"**

\* \* \* \* Please submit the application materials as attachments to an email and send it to: \* \* \* \*

San Diego Mayflower Colony Education Chair, Amy Conboy at [conboyamy@gmail.com](mailto:conboyamy@gmail.com)

**The submission must be received via email no later than May 1, 2026**

2026 SD Colony Scholarship App Final