

Colony Founding -1974



BOB SOULE AND EVELYN FORBES WITH THE CHARTER FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY COLONY OF THE SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS. PHOTO TAKEN BY MRS. JOHN HOWLAND AT THE APRIL 24, 1976 MEETING AT THE AIRPORT MARINA HOTEL IN FRESNO. EVELYN HAD JUST COMPLETED 2 YEARS AS COLONY GOVERNOR; BOB WAS SWORN IN AS NEW COLONY GOVERNOR.

pictured: Robert Soule and Evelyn Forbes
holding the San Joaquin Valley Colony Charter

At the first meeting held on July 10, 1974, the first officers were installed by P. Glenn Smooth, State Governor. They were Evelyn Forbes, governor; Florence Jackson, assistant governor; Dorothy Stephens and Elsie Symonds, secretary; Priscilla Jay, treasurer; Bea Baumbach and Dale Thomas, registrars; Ruby Nail, historian; and Robert Soule, chaplain.



Note from the Governor – Dianna Saario

Welcome to the new year!! Our officers have been busy planning for our 50th anniversary celebration. We would love to see all of you at this momentous event at the Sunnyside Country Club – Garden Room on June 8th, 2024. Doors open at 10:30 am for a meet and greet. A sit-down lunch will begin at 11:00 am, followed by presentations. *(See more details below)*

~Dianna Saario~

June Meeting: 50th Anniversary Celebration June 8, 2024

How amazing is this! Fifty years! The San Joaquin Valley Colony was founded in 1974, spearheaded by a group of enthusiasts of the descendants of the Mayflower that were living in the central Valley. Hence, the San Joaquin Valley colony was born. All our current members, friends of the colony, and former members are invited to attend this luncheon celebration which will be held **June 8th, 2024, at Sunnyside Country Club at 5704 E. Butler Ave. in Fresno.** The country club garden room offers a panoramic view of their beautifully landscaped property, an elegant dining room, and full-service dining.

Come join our honored guest speaker, Author *Donna Watkins* – 9th Great-granddaughter to Alice Bishop. Other notable attendees will be a founding member *Mr. Dale Thomas*, CA Governor (North) - *Diane Douglas*, CA Historian - *Mandy Dunkle*, and Oregon Governor - *Beth Lambright*.

To make a reservation, Contact *Mark Storch* at 760.793.3725 or email him at kh2jx@earthlink.net. The cost is \$35 per person and includes a gourmet meal with your choice of beef, chicken, or a vegetarian option and a complimentary drink of coffee or tea.

We Need Your Help

Our board of directors have been diligently seeking founding members and their families. If you have any information, stories, or photos, about a founding member or their family, please email our assistant governor/event coordinator *Diane Nitta* at tndnitta@gmail.com.

Donations to the San Joaquin Valley Colony are vital to fund scholarships and other sponsored programs. Our colony has a history of providing for the community through our fundraising. In the past, donations have paid for educational material used by Fresno Unified School District, providing for Silver Books to local libraries, contributing to the 400th Anniversary Rose Parade Float, and to sponsor our renowned presenters.

Please consider a donation of \$50 for our 50th Anniversary. However, any donation would be greatly appreciated. Contact *Diane Nitta* for details (see email above).

Memberships

Welcome our newest members of 2023!

Scott Wachlin – William White

Margaret Taber – Francis Cooke

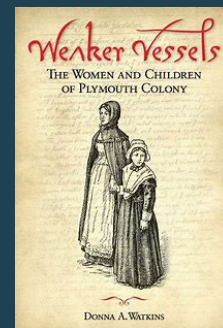
Eric Ball – Stephen Hopkins



Get to Know
Our Guest
Speaker:

Donna Watkins

Donna has an impressive educational resume with graduate degrees in Library and Information Management, and American Studies. Learning the history of her 9th great-grandmother, Alice Bishop, has led to her publishing two books about the Plymouth Colony: *Diverse Gashes* and *Weaker Vessels*. Consider adding these great books to your home library.



San Joaquin Valley Colony
Board of Directors
2024- 2025

Governor

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Membership Co-Chair/Publicist

Beverly "Bev" Wyman
Diane Nitta

Newsletter

Diane Brueggemann

This newsletter is also available on our
website:

<https://sanjoaquinvalleycolony.org>

2023 Compact Meeting

Sunnyside Country Club



John and Sue Benson (Hopkins)



Lisa Owens, Faith Haag (Alden), & Bev Wyman (Tilley)



Members and guests at the 2023 Compact Meeting with Caleb Johnson (seated)