

The Pilgrim Legacy

Newsletter Volume XX No. 2

July 2024



Notes from the Governor - Dianna Saario

I would like to extend thanks to all who attended our great celebration for the founding of this colony. Everyone enjoyed our guest Speaker, Donna Watkins and the tribute to the founding members. Our colony was grateful for having visitors from the California Mayflower Society including, Deputy Governor N. Diane Douglass and Historian Mandy Dunkle. It was a pleasure to meet a founding member, Dale Thomas and to once again greet one of our eldest members, Francis Ericksen.

Many thanks to all of the board members who made this event possible. I wish to especially thank Diane Nitta for spear heading this event and for all the little behind the scenes touches that made our day so special. I am so thankful to have such a hardworking group of board members. Please plan on attending our Compact meeting around November, date and location to be announced in the coming months. I am looking forward to meeting you next time!

June Meeting: 50th Anniversary Celebration June 8, 2024

The meeting was held on June 8, 2024, at Sunnyside Country Club. It was a day filled with much enthusiasm and anticipation. Our guest speaker was Donna Watkins. She is the ninth-great-granddaughter of Alice Bishop and has authored two books about Plymouth Colony: *Diverse Gashes: Governor William Bradford, Alice Bishop, and the Murder of Martha Clark, Plymouth Colony, 1648;* and *Weaker Vessels: The Women and Children of Plymouth Colony.*



Donna's presentation was preceded with meeting duties and a tribute to the founding members.

The colony was founded May 18, 1974, with 47 members. The newly elected board members were led by Evelyn Forbes as Governor, Assistant Governor Florence (Hirni) Jackson, Secretary Dorothy P. Stephens, Assistant Secretary Elsie

Symonds, Treasure Priscilla Jay, Elder Chaplain Ruby Naill (Evelyn Forbes's mother), and Co-Historian/Registrars Bea Baumbach and Dale Thomas. A slideshow was presented by colony historian Diane Brueggemann that highlighted all the founding members. The presentation displayed photos and a brief biography of the founding members. It also highlighted events that took place in the year 1974. So many had notable backgrounds. There were military heroes, local farmers and ranchers, educational leaders, and busy homemakers. To learn about these members, we encourage you to visit the colony website at <https://sanjoaquinvalleycolony.org/newsletters--slide-shows.html> to view the tribute.

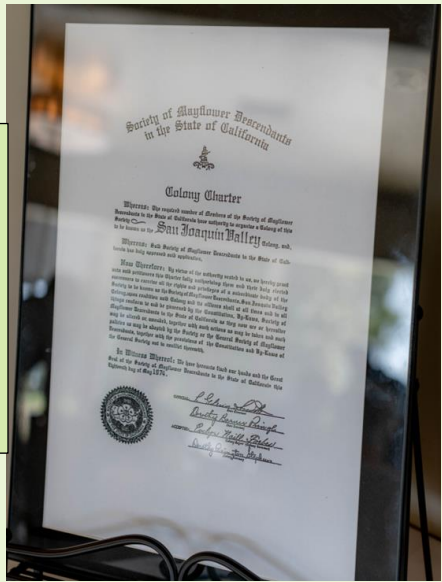
This Edition of the Pilgrim Legacy is dedicated to the 50th Anniversary

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On display-
Left: 1974
Executive Board
Right: Colony
Charter



L-R FAITH HAAG, DAN CABE, DIANE NITTA, STATE HISTORIAN MANDY DUNKLE, DIANNA SAARIO, STATE GOVERNOR (NORTH) DIANE DOUGLAS, MARK STORCH, BEV WYMAN, DIANE BRUEGGEMANN



L-R: MARK STORCH, DAN CABE, GUEST



OUT OF NECESSITY, BEATTY DEARING MADE THREE SETS OF CROSS-STITCHED COVERS FOR THE HISTORIAN BOOKS. IMAGES: (LEFT-RIGHT) BETTY DEARING, 2001; HISTORIAN BOOK; FRANCES ERICKSON, DIANE BRUEGGEMANN, BEVERLY WYMAN



SUE BENSON & DIANE NITTA

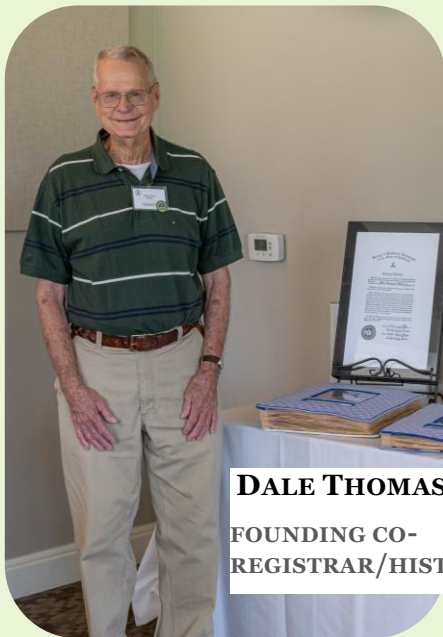
GUESTS: DONNA WATKINS (BACK LEFT), STEVE & DIANE DOUGLAS (LEFT FRONT), DIANNA SAARIO (FRONT CENTER). MANDY DUNKLE (BACK RIGHT)



**CHAPLAIN BEVERLY WYMAN
READING THE LORD'S PRAYER**



1977 - (LEFT TO RIGHT) EVELYN FORBES, GRACE FLEMING, FLORENCE (HIRNI) JACKSON, BEA BAUMBACK, AND RUBY NAILL



DALE THOMAS
FOUNDING CO-REGISTRAR/HISTORIAN



FORMER GOVERNORS: L-R ROBERT SOULE, MERRILL STUART, MORRIS HUGGINS



CELEBRATING BEA BAUMBACK FOR 20 PLUS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COLONY AS SJVC REGISTRAR: L-R: SON-IN-LAW ROBERT STRETCH, BEA BAUMBACK, DAUGHTER NORMA STRETCH, ROBERT SOULE, 1995

San Joaquin Valley Colony

Governors 1974-2024



Evelyn Forbes 1974-1976

*Robert Soule- 1976-78,
83-85, 92-93, 95-97*



Morris Huggins 1978-80

Merrill Stuart 1980-82



Clarence Garner 1982-83

Ruby Jeter 1985-87



James Porter 1987-89

Valerite Howland: 1989-92



Kenneth McCain: 1992-94

Charles Sherman 1997-99



Thomas Elliott 1999-2001

Dorothy Rothenberg 2002-03



Corky Peterson: 2004-13

Judy Weaver: 2010-16 (Varies)



Susan Oldfield 2015-20

Dianna Saario: 2020-24



Treasurers Report:

Financial report submitted by Faith Haag, Treasurer – June 7, 2024

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California
San Joaquin Valley Colony

Balance November 4, 2023: \$ 2,856.90

TYPE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TOTAL (\$)
BEGIN BALANCE			2,856.90
LUNCH DEPOSITS	769.22		3,626.12
SPEAKER Caleb Johnson		772.87	2,853.25
SUPPLIES		25.30	2,827.95
VENUE (SCC) 11/15/23		684.13	2,143.82
Venue (scc) dep. 3/11/24		500.00	1,643.82
DONATIONS 5/24/24	450.00		2,093.82

Ending Balance June 7, 2024: **\$2,093.82**



New Business:

Save the date for the **Governor General's Quarterly Address - Wednesday, July 24**

You are invited to join Governor General Lisa Pennington on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at 7 p.m. EDT for the third Governor General's Quarterly Address in 2024. You must register in advance to receive a Zoom meeting link by e-mail. Log into the Members Only section of the GSMD website (www.TheMayflowerSociety.org (<http://www.TheMayflowerSociety.org>)); click Members Only Events and see Governor General's Quarter 3 Address to register.

All Mayflower Society members are welcome to attend.

New Members:

John Sloan

Benjamin Sloan

Kathleen Brooks

Abigail Sloan

Katherine Sloan

Welcome to our colony! It is our great pleasure to have you on board!

Next Meeting: To be announced at a later date



For additional images from the 50th Anniversary luncheon, go to our San Joaquin Valley Colony website and search in the “About” section for Fiftieth Anniversary or use the link below.

<https://sanjoaquinvalleycolony.org/fiftieth-anniversary.html>

San Joaquin Valley Colony
Board of Directors
2024- 2025

Governor

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kh2jx@earthlink.net

Treasurer

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Diane Nitta

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Membership Co-Chair/Publicist

Beverly "Bev" Wyman

Diane Nitta

Newsletter

Diane Brueggemann



Congratulations to....

The board members want to extend our congratulations to member **Tim and Debby Thompson** on their recent nuptials. Devoted to their ancestral roots, they wed on the colony charter date of May 18, 2024. They enjoyed honeymooning in Boston, Massachusetts, and surrounding areas. Tim is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Robert and Mary Jo Thompson.



L TO R: TIM THOMPSON, WIFE DEBBY , DIANNA SAARIO - GOVERNOR, MARY JO, AND HER HUSBAND ROBERT THOMPSON



Thank you, Diane Nitta, for chairing the 50th Anniversary. Also, thanks to Mark Storch for continually updating charter member information and tracking guests; Dan Cabe, Bev Wyman, & Diane Brueggemann for member research, and Faith Haag for designing and ordering the 50th Anniversary commemorative pin.