

ILLINOIS MAYFLOWER NEWS

October 2009



Governor, Ralph L. Moore

It is a beautiful panorama of color as our Fall season now approaches. Let us all be reminded of the beauty, bounty, and blessings brought forth during this most special time of the year.

As Autumn appears we are reminded of our beloved nation which has opened its doors to many weary travelers coming to our shores. Our Pilgrim ancestors were foremost in this early settlement and as we reflect on their journey, our thoughts are once again turned to the dangers confronting this group and the many hardships these brave souls endured.

Don West, Past Governor of the Illinois Society, myself and some members of our Society attended the General Board of Assistants

meeting that was held in Annapolis, Maryland in September. The Maryland Society were most gracious hosts. We represented our State Society with the best interest of our members in mind.

We hope to see all of you at our Fall Luncheon and Annual meeting to be held on Saturday, November 21, 2009 at the Union League Club of Chicago which is located at 65 West Jackson Boulevard.

Our program features Chicago author, William Farina, who will share a fascinating account of the research into the life of one of the famous figures in Illinois history, Ulysses S. Grant, and his rise to military greatness during the years 1861-1864. Bill will bring copies of his book for sale and signing.

We will also welcome authors Martha Burgin and Maureen Holtz who have written a newly released book, Robert Allerton: The Private Man: The Public Gifts. They will make a short introduction to the book and then provide an opportunity for purchase and autographing.

I look forward to seeing each of you personally at this luncheon.

Blessings,

Ralph L. Moore
Governor

2009 Board of Assistants

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Elder, Mr. Joseph Morton

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Finance Committee Chair, Mr. Charles A. Berry

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Historian, Mr. Max D. Brown

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630-881-2580 mcwlod@speakeasy.net

Mayflower Board Meetings

Meetings of the Board of Assistants for 2009/2010 are held the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at 1 South Wacker Drive on the 24th floor in the Board room of Attorneys' Title Guaranty Fund, Inc., as guests of Peter Birnbaum. There are no meetings in January, March, June, July, or September. You will receive prior notice of any changes in meetings or location.

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Wednesday, August 4, 2010

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

The general meeting will be at the Union League Club of Chicago on Saturday, November 21, 2009.

In Memoriam

Harold Lee Paddock	December 26, 2003
Charles Ringer Fitch	March 1, 2008
Samuel Parks Bonson	June 4, 2009

Our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of our deceased members. May God be with them on their final voyage.

Membership Updates

Please contact Membership Secretary, Don Sherman with any changes of address, phone numbers and preliminary applications. Contact him at:

Don Sherman
1472 E. Algonquin Rd.
Des Plaines, IL 60016-6628
847-803-9669
DWSherman2@aol.com



We Welcome Our New Members

These are new members since the last issue. Any changes that have occurred since September 11, 2009 will not appear below. Memberships which occur after this date will be listed in the next issue.

FullName	Natl #	HomeTown	Ancestor
Barbara Elaine Bump Taylor	80371	Gilson, IL	Edward Fuller
Susan Grace Eiler	80521	Novi, MI	William Bradford
Mary Celeste Wilken	80540	Lebanon, IL	Richard Warren
Peggy Jean Bliujus	80597	Dekalb, IL	Thomas Rogers
James Arthur Rogers	80598	Oregon, IL	Francis Cooke
Robert Charles Williamson	80859	Chicago, IL	Stephen Hopkins
Marilyn Jane Wilcox Bauer	81050	Peoria, IL	William Brewster
Mary Schori Dammann	81051	Rockford, IL	John Alden
James Leslie Johnson	81052	East Moline, IL	Myles Standish
Jody Melissa Seibold	81087	Sadorus, IL	William Bradford
Lila Jacqueline Kimball	81157	Carthage, IL	William Brewster
Catherine Ann Passas	81158	New Lenox, IL	John Alden
Myra Eilene Lindmark Grams	81159	Volo, IL	John Howland
Barbara Lynn Sellers	81160	Libertyville, IL	William Brewster
John Blakemore Sellers	81161	Schaumburg, IL	William Brewster
Diane Mary Lehman	81179	Bloomington, IL	Francis Cooke
Evelyn Nadine Kesler	81180	Savoy, IL	George Soule
Elizabeth Anne Fosler	81209	Naperville, IL	John Alden

Supplemental Lines

Full Name	Natl #	Home Town	Ancestor
Jacob Wayne Dresser	67802	Sycamore, IL	William White, John Howland
Jane Lawrence Schleinzer	78125	Aurora, IL	James Chilton, Francis Cooke
Jessica LeeSchleinzer	78613	Aurora, IL	James Chilton, Francis Cooke

Please visit our website at:
www.illinoismayflower.com

Spring 2009 Luncheon

The Spring Luncheon of the Descendants of the Mayflower Society in Illinois was held on May 16, 2009 at the Sunset Ridge Country Club, on Sunset Ridge Road in Northbrook, Illinois. We were fortunate to have six Mayflower governors in attendance, Dick Damisch, Mary Ellen Wright, Connie O’Kieffe, H. Clark Dean, Don West, and our current governor, Ralph Moore.



Reports of the officers were shared with the group. The reception began at 11:30 and luncheon was served at 12:00.

After lunch, our speaker was Helen Sclair, Chicago’s “Cemetery Lady.” She has a well-deserved reputation as THE expert on Chicago area cemeteries. She spoke to us about different ethnic cemeteries in different areas of Chicago, and their impact and influence its people. It was a fascinating way to look at history.

Our Fall Luncheon will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2009 at the Union League Club of Chicago, located on West Jackson Blvd. Our speaker will be William Farina, an Allerton descendant, and author of *Ulysses S. Grant: 1861-1864*. We will also welcome Martha Burgin and Maureen Holtz, authors of their newly released book, *Robert Allerton: The Private Man: The Public Gifts*. We’re looking forward to an outstanding day, and hope that you’ll be able to join us.



Past Governors, Dick Damisch, Mary Ellen Wright, Don West, Connie O’Kieffe, H. Clark Dean, and current Governor Ralph Moore.

New Scholarship Fund Established for Mayflower Descendants

Do you have a child, grandchild, niece or nephew who is in need of funds for college? Or do you know of another young candidate worthy of receiving assistance? If so, you will want to let them know about the new Mayflower Scholarship Fund.

A scholarship fund has been created by your Board of Assistants from which will be awarded an annual scholarship of \$2500. This will be one of the largest scholarships awarded by any state chapter of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. To be eligible an applicant for the award must be nominated by a member of the Illinois Chapter. The scholarship will be awarded based upon academic achievement, extra-curricular activities, community service and financial need. A complete set of the qualifying criteria may be found on our web site at <http://www.illinoismayflower.com>. Click on the tab for “Memorial Scholarship Fund.”

Members of the Illinois Chapter are invited to support this wonderful and worthwhile project. Any amount you may wish to donate will be appreciated. For those contributing \$100 or more we are asking that you make your contribution in the name of one of your Mayflower ancestors. The person you wish to remember may be a parent or a grandparent, the passenger on the Mayflower from which your line descends or some other ancestor in that same line. The name of the person you are honoring will be recorded and maintained on the web site. Your donation will go directly to the scholarship fund.

Help your state chapter to honor the past and support the future. **Watch in the mail for a personal appeal letter from your state governor, Ralph Moore.** Your support of this effort is very much appreciated.

Luncheon Thank you

I want to thank Jeannine Thoburn, our Great Prairie Colony Treasurer and Ralph Moore our State Governor for all the help in getting the Spring Luncheon Invitations mailed. We send an average of 1100 invitations out each time and I could not have done it without them. Their help has been greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,
Sylvia Brewer

William Farina, Author of *Ulysses S. Grant,* *1861-1864*



A life-long American Civil War hobbyist, William Farina was born December 7, 1955 in LaPorte, Indiana. Upon receiving Bachelors and Law Degrees from Valparaiso University, he moved to Chicago where he enjoyed a successful career as a real estate analyst. Since 2004 he has been devoting time to the field of education.

Ulysses S. Grant, 1861-1864: His Rise from Obscurity to Military Greatness, his second book, was released in 2007.

Farina is a Mayflower descendant from his mother's side. "His maternal ancestors were in the Confederate Army, and (he) remembers hearing Civil War stories that had been passed down through the generations. 'My mother's family in Georgia all came out for the worse,' he said. 'As a kid I thought the tales were exaggerated, but when I was doing research, I learned that many family stories were true.' . . . Two of Farina's great-grandfathers and one great-great-grandfather were in the Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam), the bloodiest day of the Civil War. 'We have big family pictures with no men in them,' he said. 'In some ways, this is an anti-war book.' ""*

On May 3, 1861 Illinois Governor Richard Yates appointed a Mexican War veteran with Democratic sympathies and southern ties to be chief mustering officer at Camp Yates in Springfield. And so began Ulysses S. Grant's reluctantly revived military career. Over the next three years, Grant would have a chance to display a myriad of talents few suspected, including a remarkable penchant for organization, decided skill at written communication and a quick understanding of military potential. By March 1864, Grant had risen to lieutenant general, a rank last held by George Washington.

This biography details the three years which saw Ulysses S. Grant's extraordinary rise from mediocre shop clerk to general-in-chief of the U.S. Army. Beginning with Grant's work at his family's leather shop in Galena, Illinois, it records his re-entry into a military life as a volunteer from Illinois. Grant's most spectacular campaigns, including Vicksburg and Chattanooga, are discussed in depth. Special emphasis is placed on events such as politicking, rumors, and intrigue which took place between the various battles. Other topics include Grant's

personal qualities and background, his extraordinary good fortune and the general's informal and unorthodox command style.

*Evanston Review, October 4, 2007, Dorothy Andries, Michael Bonesteel and Sara Burrows

Mayflower Representation at Newberry Library

The Newberry Library presented "Taking the Mystery Out of Heritage Societies" at their 60 West Walton location in Chicago on Saturday, September 19, 2009. The program kicked off with a presentation by Christina Bannon of the Daughters of the American Revolution Chicago Chapter on their membership process. This was a natural preface to Mayflower Descendant Society Historian Max Brown's presentation on the Mayflower Society. Both Christina and Max created extremely entertaining PowerPoint slide shows that highlighted background information on the organizations. Mayflower Board Members Mary Morony and Rosalie Clary gave overviews of other heritage societies including Jamestowne Society, Sons of the American Revolution, and the many family societies available to help genealogists locate their ancestors and round up the proofs they need to make the necessary links from generation to generation.

Max Brown's Mayflower presentation was entitled, "Are You a Mayflower Descendant?" In the one hour Power Point presentation, he considered several common misconceptions about the Mayflower pilgrims. He reviewed the requirements for becoming a member of the General Society, including the standard of proof required and some of the specific documentation which can either help or hurt an applicant. He also provided several reasons why individuals might not otherwise be aware that they are Mayflower descendants. Max can be available to speak at historical and genealogical society meetings. Contact him at Max_D_Brown@Rush.edu.



Mayflower Society Board Member Al Berry, Matt Rutherford Curator of Local and Family History at the Newberry Library, Max Brown presenting the Mayflower Society membership process, Mayflower Board Members Mary Morony and Rosalie Clary.

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Illinois Proposed Officers and Board of Assistants for 2009-2010

Governor	Mr. Ralph Moore	217-498-7891	carmor1@comcast.net
Deputy Governor	Ms. Mary Morony	312-944-7029	mmorony@ameritech.net
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Corresponding Secretary	Ms. Sylvia Brewer	217-546-9772	JBrewer148@aol.com
Membership Secretary	Mr. Donald W. Sherman, Jr.	847-803-9669	DWSherman2@aol.com
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Finance Committee Chair	Mr. Charles A. Berry	847-562-1062	berry_chicago@comcast.net
Treasurer	Mr. John Schellinger	847-475-6426	John@Schellinger.info
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Historian	Mr. Max D. Brown	708-771-6886	Max_D_Brown@Rush.edu
Historian	Ms. Margery Pierson	847-945-6584	marge.pierson@comcast.net
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Assistant	Ms. Jane Schleinzer	630-851-2576	JSantiques@aol.com
Assistant	Ms. Nancy Blake	847-409-6841	Nblake@comcast.net
Assistant	Ms. Mary Wlodarski	630-881-2580	mcwlod@speakeasy.net
Assistant	Mr. Robert Anstine	309-833-5491	aboglenda@aol.com
Assistant	Mr. William Conger	773-248-2430	w-conger@sbcglobal.net

Great Prairie Colony Summer Picnic

Members and guests of the Great Prairie Colony held their summer picnic on June 13, 2009 at Lincoln Park in Springfield, Illinois. Once again they enjoyed delicious food prepared by members and had a good afternoon of fellowship with Mayflower Cousins. Pictured are:

Front Row: (l-r) Don Blessman, Joyce Blessman, Sylvia Brewer, Carolyn Moore, Gloria Graham

Back Row: (l-r) Anna Marie Koontz, Jeannine Thoburn, Bob Thoburn, Ralph Moore, Dean Graham



**The LAST 50 Illinois
Mayflower Society
ORNAMENTS!!
Get them while they LAST!**



The Illinois Mayflower Society ornaments were designed for our Illinois Society only and because of the large minimum order required, it was decided to order them **ONLY ONCE**. We are now down to the **LAST 50 ornaments**.

- Cost of ornament \$18.00 ea.
- Cost of Padded Envelope \$.52 ea.
- Cost of Shipping Label \$.08 ea.
- Priority Mail Postage (2-3 days) . . . \$ 4.80 ea.
- First Class Postage (3 to 5 days) . . . \$ 1.17 ea.

Total Cost if shipped Priority Mail = \$23.40 ea.

Total Cost if shipped First Class = \$19.77 ea.

Cost at Luncheon with no shipping - \$18.00 ea.

Each colorful, stamped metal ornament comes with a metal stand, so it can be displayed on any flat surface, such as a desk or coffee table. A gold cord is secured through the loop at the top, so it can also be hung. 3-1/3 inches high and wide, the Illinois Mayflower Society ornament is navy blue on gold-tone metal; the ship is golden, with white sails; the lettering gold, and the ribbon under the ship emphasizes our historical heritage, reading "Plymouth 1620" on the left and "Illinois 1897" on the right. The stars along the rim of the ornament are punched clear through the metal and each star is outlined in gold against the navy blue background. The rim is slightly elevated from the center, which features the Mayflower ship, giving a 3-dimensional effect. The Illinois Mayflower Society ornament comes in a navy blue gift box, with the emblem of the ornament stamped in gold on the top, nestled on a white velvet background.

Make your check Payable to: Soc. of Mayflower Descendants In Illinois

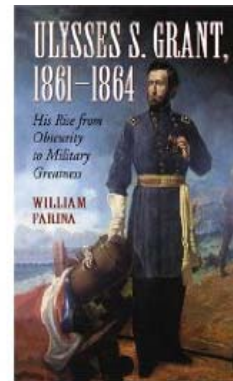
Send orders to: Ellen Stortz, 514 N. Chatham, Villa Park, IL 60181-1717.

**Plan Now to Attend the
Fall Annual Meeting in
Downtown Chicago**

The Annual Meeting and Fall Luncheon will be held this year on Saturday, November 21, 2009, at the Union League Club. Located at 65 West Jackson Boulevard in the heart of Chicago's downtown financial district, the club is one of the oldest and finest in the city, and we are grateful to former Governor Don West for arranging for the meeting. Don points out that the club has 190 modern guestrooms and suites available at a very modest rate. You can call 312 427 7800 to make reservations. All guests are asked to dress appropriately in "business casual" attire during their stay.

Depending on the degree of interest expressed the Society will arrange for special tours of the nearby Newberry Library and its genealogy resources. The library is open 9-5:00 on both Friday and Saturday.

Our program features Chicago author William Farina who will share a fascinating account of his research into the life of one of the famous figures in Illinois history, Ulysses S. Grant and his rise to military greatness during the years 1881-1864. Bill will bring copies of his book for sale and signing.



And mark your calendar for the Spring Luncheon May 15, 2010, at the Glenview Park Golf Club 800 Shermer Road, Glenview 60025 (phone 847-657-3200) when we will hear another Chicago author, Jay Bonansinga, tell us the story behind the ***Sinking of the Eastland: America's Forgotten Tragedy.***

The November Annual Meeting and Luncheon in 2010 will be held at the Executive Mansion in Springfield, Illinois. We will be limited to the number of attendees, so be certain to send in your reservations as soon as possible when notification is received. Our most honored guest will be The General Society of Mayflower Descendants Governor General, Judith Swan of California. Some very special events are planned.

JUNIOR ASSOCIATE CORNER.....

By Shari Kelley Worrell, Junior Associates Membership Secretary

As a reminder, the following Junior Associates will reach their Age of Majority in 2008. The Junior Associate category terminates on this birthday and he/she are automatically dropped as Junior Associates from the Illinois Society of Mayflower Descendants. We would like to invite these "Juniors" to continue on in our prestigious society as Adult Members.

The Societies "gift" to those who have been a Junior Associate, and choose to become an Adult Member, is to waive the customary application fee! The member has 1 year from his/her birthday to complete an application for membership. All normal requirements and procedures for membership must be fulfilled except the Application Fee is waived at this time. If the "Junior" decides to become a Regular or Life member later than 1 year after his/her birthday, the regular fees, etc. will apply.

If you are a sponsor or a Junior Associate, please check to see if your name appears below. If it does, and you want to become a Regular Member or a Life Member, please contact the Membership Secretary for a preliminary Application. His contact information is: Don Sherman (847) 803-9669 or dws Sherman2@aol.com

Membership #	Name	Birthdate	Sponsor's Name
1575	Jonathan David Thurston Ward	1/24/1984	Frank W. Ward, Jr.
1702	Andrew Robert Hodge	1/24/1984	Nancy J. Simms
1788	Benjamin Brett Smith	1/30/1984	Kathie M. Andrus Smith
1912	Elizabeth Catherine Gardner	2/27/1984	Richard S. Gardner
1549	Kimberly Ann Wetter	2/28/1984	Elinor C. Vance
1543	Kimberly Joyce Wetter	2/29/1984	Elinor C. Vance
1932	Hillary Melissa Shoreland	3/1/1984	Carolyn A. Kremer
1621	Leanne Kathleen Carter	3/30/1984	Quentin Evans Carter
1994	William Bryce Traxler	3/31/1991	Charles Dean Traxler
1625	Jeffrey Robert Keleher	4/5/1984	Mrs. Robert L. Howard
1587	Nicole Elizabeth Sanders	4/12/1984	Rhea S. Adler
1586	Erik Nicholas Johnson	5/6/1984	Mrs. Leonard M. Johnson
1616	Lisa Beth Miller	5/22/1984	Elinor Beard Miller
1550	Mary Cathryn Van Geem	6/6/1984	Leo H. Garman
1821	April Ruth Inglis	6/15/1984	Maxine Piha
1815	Stephanie Nicole Maddox	6/20/1984	Marilyn Ford Fox
1559	Caroline Elizabeth Von Sick	7/19/1984	Hazel M. Chamberlain
1601	Rachel Elizabeth Hennessy	9/14/1984	H. Richard Hennessy, Jr.
1748	Kevin Michael Bott	9/28/1984	Shirley A. Bott
1589	Elizabeth Nicole Grayson Jaxon	10/3/1984	Dr. Richard R. Grayson
1771	Allison Mary Bell	10/8/1984	Hope M. Burke
1690	Karl Jo Storm	12/5/1984	Marian T. Leach
1646	John Coleman Greenwood	12/21/1984	Beatrice V. MacBride
1903	Kristin Faye Henne	12/26/1984	Ellen Moore Sinclair

*FACEBOOK PAGE: The National Society Junior Chairman has created a **Facebook** page for all Junior Members. The name of the group is Mayflower Jr Members (2009). I would like encourage all Junior members to participate in the discussion group and to hear from other Junior members. When you sign into the page let others know you are a member of the Illinois Society.*

I would also like to invite all our Junior members to attend our two meetings a year, with their sponsors, to spark interest and participation within the Society.

The Illinois Society of Mayflower Descendants is always looking for people who would like to serve on the Board of Assistants. If you, or any member you know, is interested please contact Governor, Ralph Moore at 217-498-7891 or carmor1@comcast.net.

Report on The General Society of Mayflower Descendants' Board of Assistants Annual Meeting

**September 12, 2009
Annapolis, Maryland**

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) is governed by a Board of Assistants (BOA) that functions like the Board of Directors for a regular corporation. Each State Society nominates a Deputy Governor General (DGG) and an Assistant General (AG) who are then voted on and into office at an Annual Meeting to serve until replacements are nominated. These DGG's and Ag's along with the elected officers manage the affairs of the GSMD. In Illinois, its Bylaws provide that the current Governor shall serve as the DGG and the most recent Past Governor shall serve as the AG. Ralph Moore and your writer, Don West, represented Illinois in these respective capacities this year.

These GSMD officers meet every three years as the General Congress to deliberate on very important matters than can only be changed at those meetings such as the yearly fee charged to State Societies for members; amending the GSMD Constitution or Bylaws, the election of National Officers and certain other specific items. General Congress is held triennially in Plymouth, MA.

In the interim two years, Annual Meetings are held in various states whose Societies have bid for the honor to hold it. This year the meeting was held in Annapolis, Maryland. The Maryland Society of Mayflower Descendants arranged for the meeting at the Annapolis Double Tree Hotel where all GSMD Committee meetings were held on Friday and on Saturday, the Annual Meeting was held. In addition, the Maryland Society arranged for a wonderful selection of tours and places to visit for attendees, spouses and guests to enjoy.

As is often the case, this year's meeting had some lively issues, debates and points of interest and concern that were addressed by the Assistants. Of particular interest were the work of the Finance Committee and the financial status of the Society. Given the state of the economy, everyone was concerned about the financial health of the GSMD. The final report was positive with fiscal year

2008-2009 income totaling \$865,620 and expenses totaling \$823,215 leaving a positive cash flow of \$42,405. The major discussion focused on the membership of the Finance Committee which was finally resolved amicably. A proposed balanced budget of \$761,900 was approved for fiscal year 2009 – 2010. The reduced budget amount reflected lower anticipated gift giving in light of the present economy.

The major debate was over amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. This has proven to be a most contentious issue for the Society with several former Governor Generals leading the campaign to not make any changes. Newer Assistants, often led by Illinois, have pushed to have the Constitution and Bylaws brought more in line with and compliant with current corporate practice. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee had proposed a simple reorganization of these documents to make them more understandable as a prelude to future discussions without making any substantive changes. Even this proved too much for the "old guard" who challenged everyone speaking in support of change. It took the wise comments of our Governor, Ralph Moore, to bring some civility back into the debate and allow it to proceed, unfortunately to a stalemate.

The final major area of debate was the adoption of a Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower's Policy, both of which were approved. Officer and Committee reports occupied most of the rest of the Session. Good news was shared with the announcement that Dr. Jeremy Duprecius Bang's new book, "Strangers and Pilgrims, Travellers and Sojourners: Leiden and the Foundations of Plymouth" had been published and was available for sale at our meeting. The Illinois Society had taken a lead six years ago providing financial support to Dr. Bangs. There was great satisfaction by everyone seeing the results of nine years of work by Dr. Bangs, the leading researcher, writer and expert on the Pilgrims. The publishing of his book was a major educational undertaking by the GSMD which your writer had the pleasure of helping establish when a national officer.

A lovely banquet was held on Saturday night with a wonderful program featuring a performer who acted out the role of "Good Queen Bess." Everyone had a delightful time. All who participated enjoyed the Friday Tour of Annapolis and the US Naval Academy and the Sunday Tour of Baltimore and Fort McHenry. Additionally, all enjoyed many fine meals at the local restaurants.

A highlight for this writer was attending Sunday morning worship services at the Naval Academy

Chapel and listening to the Cadets' Choir. In all, we had an enjoyable and constructive time tending to the business needs of the GSMD. Next year will be held in San Diego in early September, home state of the Governor General in keeping with tradition to hold the Annual Meeting prior to the General Congress in the Governor General's home state.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald W. West, Past Governor, Illinois and
Past Assistant Governor General, GSMD

Volunteer Drivers Take Five Miles for 104-year Journey

A five-mile drive to church can take 'volunteer chauffeurs' on an intriguing 104-year journey. Riverside Methodist Church in Moline has been recruiting people to make sure longtime member, Bee Fritz*, 104, keeps making it to church. Once she gets there, head usher Tom Harper escorts her to a seat he saves just for her.

Mrs. Fritz had driven her own car until about a month ago, when her children asked her to stop.

Church trustee chairwoman Sandy Bellinger then started looking for drivers.

Gene and Deanna Oppenheimer, of East Moline, were among the first volunteers, and have grown well-acquainted with Mrs. Fritz during each 10-mile round trip they've taken with her from her residence at the Lighthouse in Silvis to the church in downtown Moline.

"Bee is a very interesting person," Mr. Oppenheimer said. "We've shared some interesting conversations."

They've heard about her days as a school teacher, and her love for all the languages she used to teach.

"Somehow in our conversations, Chester, Iowa, came up, and Bee said she had gone to school there." Mr.

Oppenheimer said. "She told us because Chjester is on the border of Minnesota, some of the kids who live just across the border in Minnesota can attend school in Chester. We found that very interesting."

The Oppenheimers have driven through Chester, Iowa, en route to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

They also learned Mrs. Fritz loves to play bridge whenever she can, and have shared more than one conversation about cats, particularly her pet named "Ringo."

"I know she also likes to attend Quad City Symphony," Mrs. Bellinger said, and that "church has been an important part of her life for many years."

Mrs. Fritz has attended the Moline church since 1935.

"I see Bee wanting to be at church as a strong, meaningful message," she said. "As I interact with Bee at church, I see a healthy, aging woman being a Christian disciple and wanting to worship each week."

She also saw recruiting drivers as a chance to practice what church pastor, the Rev. Don Jackson, has been preaching about for the last eight months.

He's urged the congregation to "focus on the qualities of the fruits of the spirit," Mrs. Bellinger said.

Rev. Jackson listed those "fruits" as "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-discipline," she said.

She also believes it serves as an example of how "God puts you in special places," she said.

I was in the hallway at church, with no one else around, when Bee's daughter approached me about providing rides for her mother," Mrs. Bellinger said. "I am sure I was the first person she saw, so she asked me about the transportation for her mother.

"I believe God put me in that hallway at that time to be able to help a very special lady."

Helping Mrs. Fritz, listening to Rev. Jackson and reading Galatians 5:22-23 has made Mrs. Bellinger better see how important it is to be open to those spiritual fruits, such as being kind like the way she hopes other prospective drivers will "be toward Bee."

Anyone else who would like to help drive Mrs. Fritz is asked to call the church office.

And don't be concerned as the Oppenheimers were about getting her back to the Lighthouse in time for lunch.

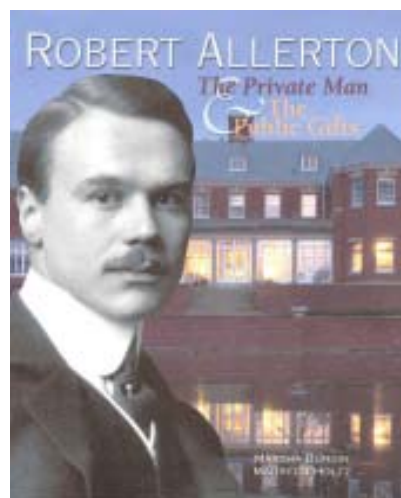
"She assured us they would wait for her and that the food is served until 1 p.m." Mr. Oppenheimer said. "She said they feed her more than she can eat and they take good care of her."

-Claudia Loucks for The Dispatch and The Rock Island Argus, Saturday July 11, 2009

*Bee Fritz is a member of the Mayflower Descendants in Illinois from Moline.

Local Authors to Share Book

Authors Martha Burgin and Maureen Holtz who have written a newly released book, Robert



Allerton: The Private Man: The Public Gifts. They will make a short introduction to the book at our Fall Luncheon and then provide an opportunity for purchase and autographing.

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1935-2010

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**Annual Meeting:
Saturday, November 21, 2009
Chicago, Illinois**