



The Pilgrim

John Howland Society

2023-2024 Annual Report

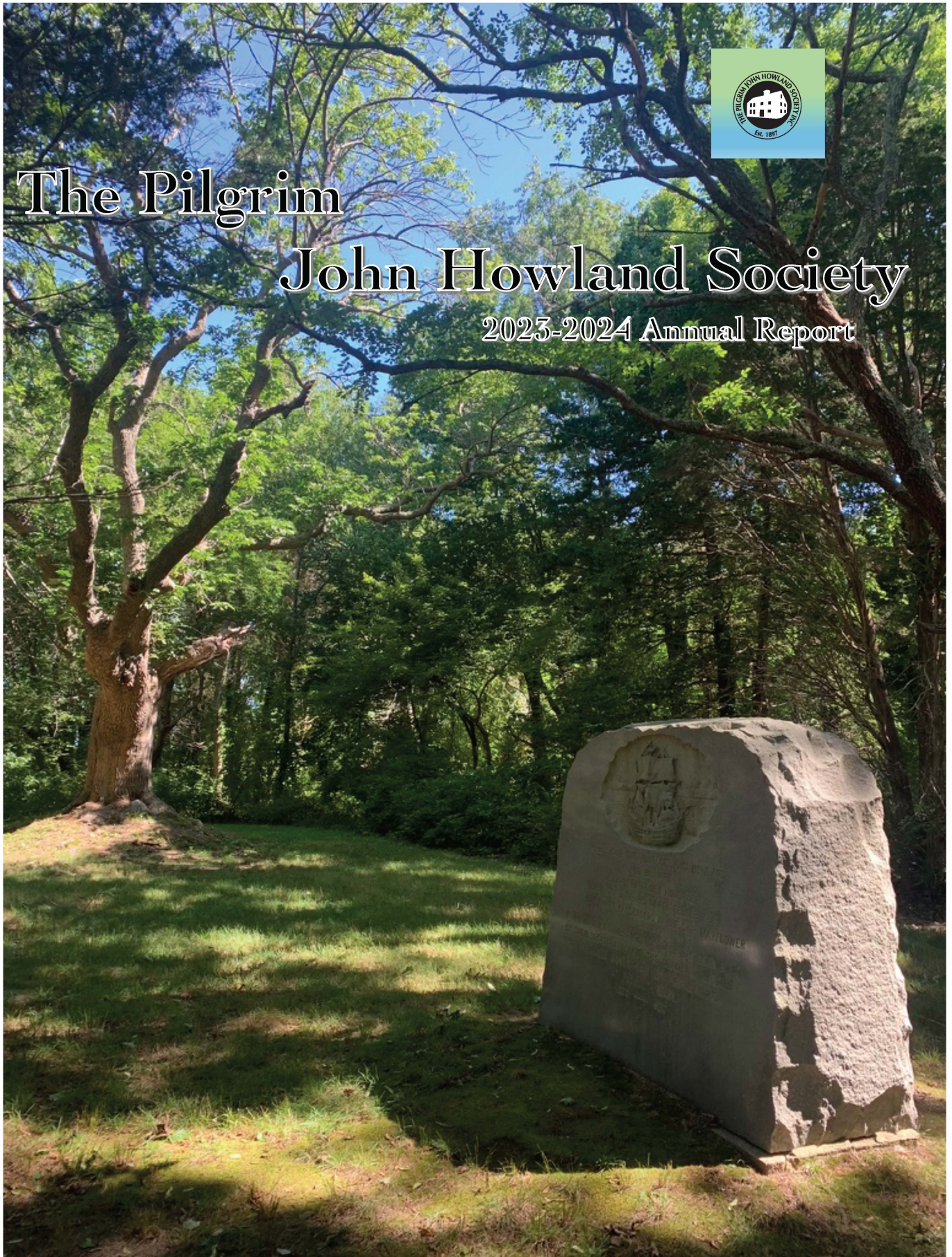


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Memorial Marker at Rocky Nook - 1921

Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends,

The Pilgrim John Howland Society Board of Directors is pleased to present the 2023-2024 Annual Report. This report includes financial and other information about the overall health of the Society. It has been provided to help our members and the broader public stay informed about the Society and our activities over the past year.

We have many things to celebrate this year, such as our continued preservation of both the Jabez Howland House and Rocky Nook Howland Site, the repair of our shallop *Elizabeth Tilley*, the new exhibition at the Jabez Howland House, and our continued commitment to furthering the memories of John and Elizabeth and their descendants. None of this would be possible without the generous financial and volunteer support of our members. Thank you for all of your support this year, whether it was through membership renewal, a financial or artifact donation, a trip to the Jabez Howland House, or hearing from you through email. We are a member-driven organization, and we appreciate all your engagement over the last year.

I hope that you find this report interesting and informative. We look forward to welcoming you in the coming year to the Jabez Howland House, the Rocky Nook Howland Site, or through other events. It is through your support that we keep the memory of our remarkable ancestors alive, and for that we are thankful. My best wishes to you and yours in the year ahead.

Yours,

Edward C. Howland
President

Pilgrim John Howland Society, Inc.
Executive Board
2023 - 2024

Gail Adams (Editor, *Howland Quarterly*)
Leesburg, VA
Term Ends: 2026

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Term Ends: 2025

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Term Ends: 2026

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Term Ends: 2025

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Term Ends: 2026

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Term Ends: 2026

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Term Ends: 2026

Andrew R. Whipple (Vice-President)
Isle La Motte, VT
Term Ends: 2026

New Members

July 01,2023 – June 30, 2024

Benjamin Leroy Perry	Clarksville, IN
Maia Isabella Whipple	South Dennis, MA
Paula Marie Keene Pierce	Quincy, MA
Jennifer Louise Sullivan Mead	Couer d'Alene, ID
Aden William Mead	Couer d'Alene, ID
Renee Heifetz Gibson	Charleston, NC
Roger Sherman Williams	Whitesboro, NY
Craig Robert Rich	Holland, MI
Jacqueline Michaelis Berry	Chapel Hill, TN
Jeffrey Pruitt	New Orleans, LA
Ann Laurence Staman Hollingworth	Amherst, MA
Vincent Emery Cook	San Clemente, CA
Susan Jeanne Johnson Antonsen	Elizabeth, CO
Stuart Glen Rice	Rapid City, SD
Kathleen Ellen Roberts Ribik	Woodenville, WA
Ellen Faye Boates Clark	Glenview, IL
Donna Susan Schaeffer Brandelli	North Stonington, CT
Joan Catherine Zurlinden Gillespie	Cincinnati, OH
Carol Warren Hanft Brown	Bastrop, TX
Amanda Trask Morse Temple	Fairport, NY
Luke Thomas Temple	Fairport, NY
Fiona Elizabeth Temple	Fairport, NY
Dana Warren Fox	Dracut, MA
Charlotte Ann Mira Eschmann	Niceville, FL
Mitsy Yvette White Knight	Bowling Green, KY
Anne Kinman Morris Gibson	Richmond, VA
Frederick Hutchinson Gibson	Richmond, VA
Caroline McNeal Morris	Brookhaven, GA
David George Klose	Carlsbad, CA
Judy (Seabury) Stearns Gibson	Charlestown, NH
Errett Lobban Vieleher	Mount Laurel, NJ
Coleburn Errett Vieleher	Mount Laurel, NJ
Connor Plunket Vieleher	Mount Laurel, NJ
Corinna Ware Vieleher	Mount Laurel, NJ
Logan Dale Booth	Woodenville, WA
Sienna May Booth	Woodenville, WA
Nicholas Tyler Renninger	Woodenville, WA
Susan Ellen Earle	Jupiter, FL
Christopher Stuart Hudson	Plymouth, MA
Nicholas Stuart Hudson	Plymouth, MA
Sydney Grace Hudson	Plymouth, MA

A Note from the Executive Director

This is the third published annual report I have had the pleasure to work on for The Pilgrim John Howland Society. As a lineage society there is much that remains the same through the years. We continue to care for our historic properties that include the Jabez Howland House, with its hundreds of artifacts. We produce a Quarterly for our members expertly edited by Gail Adams and our Shallop, Elizabeth Tilley, continues to remind us in a physical way the labor required of our ancestors to build and expand the Plymouth Colony. Of all our treasures, Rocky Nook reflects the continuity of our history that echoes through the centuries.

The Society first acquired property at Rocky Nook in 1920 with the purchase for \$1.00 from Helen Holmes of Kingston, Massachusetts, (not the same Helen Holmes from whom we purchased the Howland House in 1912.) of some twenty acres. Over the years we have added to the original purchase so that we now own about forty acres of land at Rocky Nook, twenty-two of which was part of John and Elizabeth's homestead.

Archaeology in 1937-38 uncovered the foundation of their home along with a wealth of artifacts. We can learn much about their lives with the remnants of physical objects they owned, held and ultimately left behind. Most of our artifacts are housed in a climate-controlled storage area at Plimoth Patuxet Museums. It is their hope, when the necessary funding is available, to have our collection digitally catalogued, photographed and uploaded to a website to make our valuable historic artifacts available to researchers, historians and our Society members.

The Pilgrim John Howland Society is applying to have the Rocky Nook site placed on the National Historic Record. This multi-phased process, when completed and the site is accepted onto the National Register will assure the security of the site and bring the reality of our ancestor's homestead to a national audience.



Stone in marsh on Jones River that marked the west corner of John Howland's property at Rocky Nook

A year at the Jabez Howland House



JABEZ HOWLAND HOUSE · PLYMOUTH, MASS
BUILT 1667 · RESTORED 1941

The Jabez Howland House has stood on the land near Town Brook, once known as the Garden Spot for centuries. The house has been witness to many changes in the years since the original structure was built by Jacob Mitchell in 1667. It is hard to imagine a shallop has sat next to the house undergoing repairs in all that time.

This past year has seen our shallop *Elizabeth Tilley* sitting in the parking lot of the Jabez Howland house undergoing some long-needed repairs. While having the boat at the house has saved the Society a great deal of money in storage costs, we have paid to the local marina in the past the shallop has also been a great attraction for visitors walking in the area. Having the boat at the house has also allowed us to bring to life, the stories about John and other pilgrims voyages to the Cushnoc trading post in the late 1620s.



Attendance at the house, in general this past year, has rebounded from the pandemic period lows. While we don't see the numbers of visitors reported in years past, for the current environment, our attendance on average has been around 10-12 people a day. We can see 20 or 25 people per day on a busy Saturday and as far as we can tell the highest number of people at the house in one day last fall was 32.

In May we hosted bus tour groups on two occasions at the House. The groups of High School students from all around the country included the Jabez Howland House on their tour of New England historic sites.



This season we have three docents all of whom are returning from the previous year. Margaret Warner has been with us the longest, having started in 2017. Nancy Pratt has been with us for three years and Stephen Fisher is in his second season interpreting at the Howland House.

We are also fortunate to have a deep bench of support at the house. Jane Murphy, a director at large, on our board has filled in as a guide for a few days so far this year. Jane worked the 2019 season with us at the house and knows the Howland story well. Lois Nelson, currently serving as secretary for the Howland executive Board, is also an accomplished seamstress. She and Jane have volunteered to produce new curtains for the 1720, and 1750 first floor sections of the house. They have chosen a natural linen cloth and are following research on what curtains of that time would look like. Come by the house during the weekend of the 2024 Annual Meeting to see their handy work.

We have again received a Massachusetts Cultural Council grant for the 2023-2024 fiscal year to support our First Fridays Plymouth Program. The program runs from May through October. Arts and cultural organizations remain open late on the first Friday of each month offering free programming to the public. This season we have featured a fine art painter, a sculptor and musicians. The program promotes the arts and gives us the opportunity to tell our Howland family stories to people who may not visit otherwise.



For the 2024 season, The Jabez Howland House is open from mid-June until November First, Thursday – Monday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 pm. We are also open for the Thanksgiving Day Parade on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Shallop Elizabeth Tilley

In the past year we have undertaken a series of repairs that will help keep our shallop afloat for some time to come. Those repairs continue this season. While the best place for a boat like the Elizabeth Tilly, built of native oaks and pines, is in the water we are happy to have the boat onshore, at the Jabez Howland House. The boat will be in our parking lot at the house through this season with the plan to launch the boat next spring back into historic Plymouth Harbor.



The complete history of our boat can be read online at our website pilgrimjohnhowlandsociety.org or in back issues of the Howland Quarterly, available to members also through our website. Briefly, the boat was built at Plimoth Plantation (now known as Plimoth Patuxet Museums) in 2002-2003. Launched in July 2003 the Pilgrim John Howland Society crew sailed the boat to Augusta, Maine (site of the Pilgrim trading post known as Cushnoc) in a ten-day voyage.

Through the years the boat has visited many ports in New England and in and around Plymouth, Massachusetts waters, delighting and educating all who see her.

As reported in last year's Annual Report we have been replacing rotted planks and frames sections. As a sawn framed wooden boat, it is possible to replace almost any piece of the vessel without endangering the integrity of the whole. For example, an individual frame is made up out of five smaller pieces of oak fastened together with wooden pins made of locust, a local hardwood.

As planks we removed further work was revealed requiring an extension on the amount of time the boat will be out of the water. Planks that are in marginal shape will be replaced now rather than waiting and worrying. We have had some volunteer help with this work and welcome anyone in the area to enquire at the house about the opportunity to work on the boat whether as an ongoing volunteer or a one-time helper.





There are several advantages to having the boat in the parking lot. One is it brings our boat, that most of the season is out on a mooring in the harbor far out of reach of anyone interested in seeing her and two the boat is a real draw for visitors to the Jabez Howland House. Many days visitors passing by will come in and ask about the boat. This gives us another opportunity to tell the John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley Howland story.

We are building a larger cover over the shallop providing greater shelter from the sun and rain for the boat and the people working on her.



We have repaired the hemp rigging and the spars. The mast and sprit have been refinished with the help of a volunteer, Neil Sheer, in anticipation of relaunching the boat next summer. A year ago, we had the sails overhauled by a local sailmaker familiar with traditional techniques and materials.



Rocky Nook

The focus of the 2023 Howland Archaeology Dig was to define the length and depth of the hearth foundation found in last years' dig. This information will be used to locate the root cellar stone wall which according to Deetz' grid is located just behind the hearth. In addition, we located the South wall foundation of a house a short distance from the hearth.



The unique artifacts found this year were a silver shoe buckle, two coins and a coin weight. The last two items can be dated after they are cleaned and examined along with the other artifacts found this year. A full report of the 2023 Dig will be posted on our website in the Rocky Nook Archaeology section. Also, included in this section are reports on the previous digs conducted at the Joseph Howland site which provides a background to the 2023 dig. The Joseph site will be included in our National Registry of Historic Places (NRHP) application.



Volunteers taking a break from the dig and advantage of the fair weather during their time at the Joseph Howland site.

An archaeologist from the Public Archaeology Laboratories visited the site on Tuesday to survey, photograph and take GPS readings of the foundation locations for mapping of the site. They have started the process of assembling the information needed to complete the application for listing the Howland Homestead in the National Registry of Historic Places.

(Written by Eldon Gay, first published in the Howland Quarterly, 2023 Vol 88, No 3)

Along with the archaeological dig and regular upkeep of the property at Rocky Nook we are applying to have Rocky Nook on the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of historic places worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register recognizes historic properties that are significant to our communities, our state, and our nation.

The process to get a property listed starts with approval by the state Historical Commission to proceed. They screen out applications that are not historically significant or otherwise don't meet requirements. The multi-step process requires a deep dive into the historical record and archaeological data developed over years. We have hired The Public Archeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) to submit the required reports. Based in Rhode Island, PAL specializes in helping organizations with archaeology, research and report writing since 1982. Their 128-page report on the archaeological record at Rocky Nook was submitted in the spring of 2024 to the Massachusetts Historical Commission recommending that the John Howland House and Joseph Howland House sites as eligible for listing in the National Register under a variety of criteria.

The sites are significant in the area of Exploration and Settlement for their association with the early colonial settlement and development of Plymouth Colony and Kingston, and for their association with Pilgrim John Howland and the Howland family. The sites are also significant in the areas of Archaeology, Historic–Non-Aboriginal and Archaeology, Prehistoric–Aboriginal for roles that they played in the development of American historical archaeology in the twentieth century, and for their demonstrated and potential abilities to provide significant new information about pre-contact Native American and colonial life in Kingston, MA.

Part of our plans for Rocky Nook, specifically the Joseph Howland side of Howland Lane is to bring part of the overgrown property back to what it might have looked like as a farmstead or English meadow. We have hired an historic landscape designer to help us identify and remove invasive plants and plan for native plants to repopulate the area.



The threshold and hearth area of John and Elizabeth's homestead at Rocky Nook



Eldon Gay conversing with Historic Landscape Designer, Bob Hoxie, about plans for Rocky Nook

The Pilgrim John Howland Society Scholarship Winner

A scholarship is provided by the Society to promote and support our membership in their educational pursuits. Eligibility requirements for an individual applying for our scholarship are:

- The applicant must be a member of The Pilgrim John Howland Society in good standing at the time of application submission.
- The applicant must show proof of enrollment in a higher education institution or trade school.
- The applicant must submit one letter of recommendation from a teacher.
- The applicant must submit an essay on a topic outlined in the application.

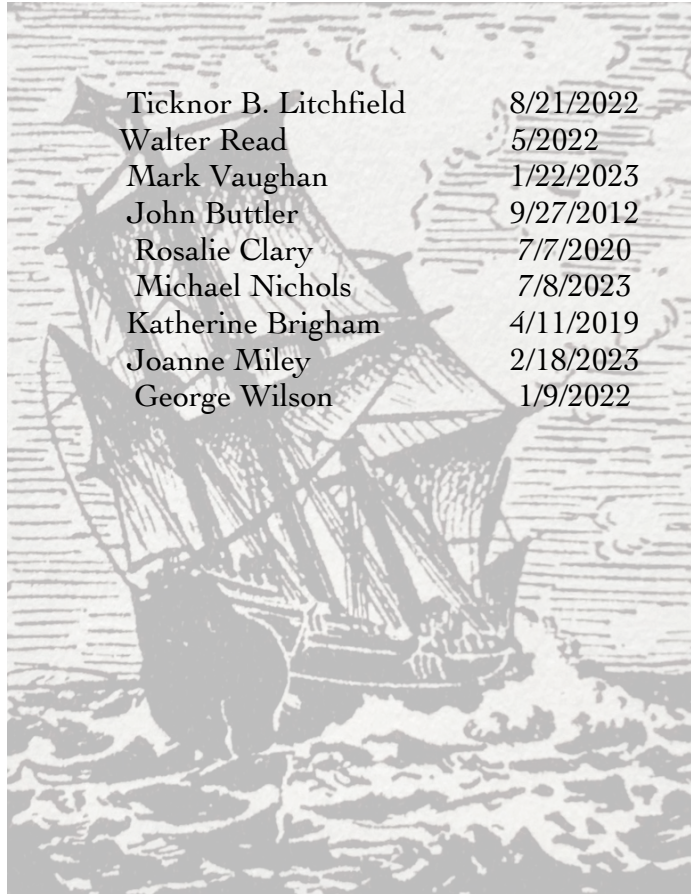
The winner of the 2023 Scholarship was Maia Whipple.

The Pilgrim Story's Impact

I am Maia Whipple, a graduate of Nauset Regional High School. My plan for the fall is to study Biology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. I am very excited for my new adventure and all the things it will bring to my life. The Pilgrim story has impacted my life by giving me a greater knowledge of where my family originated from. Hearing my father retell the stories of our ancestors with great pride in his voice makes me all the more interested in, not only my family's history but the history of our country. John Howland's legacy as well as the legacy of the Pilgrims themselves makes me live my life and the choices I make in a way that prioritizes working up to my dream of being a biologist. John Howland started on the Mayflower as an indentured servant and eventually made his way up to secretary of the governor.

This encourages me to work harder and reach for my goal with everything I have. A way to better engage young adults and get them more involved in this organization would be by creating a greater online presence. As time goes on social media and online presence are the best way to engage young adults, as many are "chronically online". Being active on social media also gives a greater chance of coming up on the social media feed that is presented on people's pages.

In Memoriam



The 2023 Lura Sellew Mayflower Medal Winner

The Lura Sellew Mayflower Medal project was founded by previous Howland Quarterly editor Robert F. Huber in honor of PJHS secretary Lura Sellew. Lura served as secretary from 1986-1997. She was an artist, founder of the Warren Cousins, and for many years kept the site of Elizabeth Tilley Howland's grave in Rhode Island clean and with flowers. She was present at Henlow, England for the dedication of the Tilley plaque in 1989. Mr. Huber admired her love of our Pilgrim heritage and how she passed this knowledge on to others. He created this award to honor those who carry on this tradition to keep alive our Pilgrim heritage.

Tracy Dieselman was chosen as the winner for 2023. Tracy exemplifies the Pilgrim Spirit! After our shallop was built, she was one of the sailors on the 2003 maiden voyage up to Augusta, Maine. She became the first admiral in 2005, a position she held for several years. She also sailed with, not only our members, but many others and taught them how to "man" the boat.



Past Winners

2003 Harry Walen
2004 Robert Tatem
2005 Judith Elfring
2006 Susan Shaw
2007 none
2008 Jonathan Stubbs
2009 Barbara Adams
2010 John R. Howland

2011 Richard Clary
2012 Robert Allen Greene
2013 Bradford Gorham
2014 Gail Ann Adams
2015 Eldon Gay
2016 None
2017 Peter Arenstam
2018 Jean Albert

2019 Jon Daley
2020 Ashley Smith
(Selected)
2021 None
2022 Ashley Smith
(delayed presentation)
2023 Tracy Dieselman

Donors

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

\$1 - \$20

Elizabeth Mader
Mariel Dumin
Sienna / Logan Booth
Keith Amen
Joyce Coon
Will Channon
Stephanie Whittelsey
Paul Jones
Linda Stanton
Marvin Jansma
William Arthur
Suzanne Benoit
Christy Scott
Walter Kenyon
Eleanor Mitchell
Dorothy Dreher
Kenneth Schroeder
Ronald Nickerson
John Sauter
Emily Hewett
Kazimirea Neavill
Peggy Kennedy
Lewis Knudsen
Judy McWhirter
Beverly Warner
Martha D'Alessandro
Theodore Craig
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Dayna Drake-Walker
Charlotte Abbott
Yvonne Davis
Claudia Jakus
Dahl Schultz
Linda Rasley
Susan Jones
Ned Stewart III
Carl Olsen
Marvin Jansma
Robert Haas
Patricia Winter
Karen Konfederak
Lynne Jensen
Sally Krigbaum
Janet Hunter
Regina Ralston
Henry D'Alby
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James Benoit
Jacquelyn Stefanka
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Margaret Albee
Judith Bishop
Susan Wainio
James Dennison
Herbert Clark
Dorothy Dreher
Kenneth Schroeder
James Denney
Neavill Kazimirea

Pat Holder
Peggy Kennedy
Lewis Knudsen
Diane Eagon
Jeannine Steniger
Robert Caulkins
Patricia Hiott
Marlyn Scheier
Jim Clifford
Jonathan Klardie
William/Lucie Lindberg
Kathleen Trautman
Amy/Jonathan Andrzejek
Ann Houx
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Dawn Saleen
Charlotte Eschmann
Marlyn Scheier
William Thomson
William/Lucie lindberg
Theresa Long

Donors

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Anonymous
Laura Schenk
Peter Engel

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Rita Kreiss
Barbara Ostrom

A heartfelt thank you to all our donors

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JUNE 30, 2023
{WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2022}

ASSETS

	2023	2022
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash	\$ 45,537	\$ 19,704
Accounts receivable	335	20
Prepaid expenses	8,455	6,755
Total current assets	<u>54,327</u>	<u>26,479</u>
<u>Property and Equipment</u>		
Equipment	1,805	1,805
Less: accumulated depreciation	(1,493)	(1,285)
Total property and equipment	<u>312</u>	<u>520</u>
<u>Other Assets</u>		
Historical treasures	295,017	295,017
Inventory	8,922	10,802
Investments	2,582,167	2,455,976
Total other assets	<u>2,886,106</u>	<u>2,761,795</u>
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$ 2,940,745</u>	<u>\$ 2,788,794</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Accrued expenses	\$ 5,078	\$ 4,843
Total current liabilities	5,078	4,843
<u>Net Assets</u>		
Without donor restrictions	2,935,667	2,783,951
Total net assets	<u>2,935,667</u>	<u>2,783,951</u>
<u>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</u>	<u>\$ 2,940,745</u>	<u>\$ 2,788,794</u>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 (WITH
COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2022)

	2023	2022
<u>Support and Revenue</u>		
Grants and contributions	\$ 48,453	\$ 25,095
Admission fees	6,131	5,378
Annual meeting	3,173	
Membership dues and subscriptions	16,733	22,505
Sale of merchandise	8,299	7,025
Other income		4,593
Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	181,863	(257,352)
Interest and dividends, net	64,328	62,810
Total support and revenue	<u>328,980</u>	<u>(129,946)</u>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Program services	124,670	113,835
General and administrative	45,609	40,887
Fundraising	6,985	6,923
Total expenses	<u>177,264</u>	<u>161,645</u>
<u>Change in Net Assets</u>	151,716	(291,591)
Net Assets - <u>Beginning of Year</u>	<u>2,783,951</u>	<u>3,075,542</u>
<u>Net Assets - End of Year</u>	<u>\$ 2,935,667</u>	<u>\$ 2,783,951</u>