

# Compact News



W E L C O M E B A C K G W B C



2023 has been a busy year so far the Governor William Bradford Compact (GWBC). In February, I was contacted by Dr. Donna Curtin, Executive Director of Pilgrim Hall about participating in a Generational William Bradford video and exhibit at Pilgrim Hall. The idea for the video is to portray the Governor as a child, young man and as an older, more reflective statesman.

Taylor Bradford (my son) would portray the “younger” Bradford as he traveled to the new world and wrote his epic work “Of Plimoth Plantation.” I would obviously portray the “older” Bradford, reflecting on the the colony’s past and future. James May depicted the orphaned Bradford living in Austerfield, England. There is a photo of the three of us on page 2 of this newsletter. I have also added information in this Compact News of the Pilgrim Hall Exhibit which is currently on display.

We met with Dr. Curtin several times over several weeks to work on our script for the video. As the date of shooting came closer, we had to be fitted for 17th century time period costumes.

Finally, the day arrived in early April for the video shoot at the Harlow House in Plymouth. Taylor arrived early that morning to change into costumes and meet with the production company to start filming inside the Harlow House; and, I arrived later that morning to film a few scenes inside of the Harlow House in front of the fire place. Later that day, we continued to film various outdoor scenes with the New Plimmoth Gard, a 17th Century reenactment group. Taylor Bradford filmed several more scenes with Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Members. The entire process was fascinating and it was an honor to play my 11th Great Grandfather, Gov. William Bradford. If you haven’t visited the Harlow House, it is one of the few early 17th Century houses still in existence. The main beams used to build the house are reportedly from the original Fort,

constructed by the Pilgrims. Dr. Donna Curtin will be our guest speaker at the GWBC General Meeting on September 9 at 10AM, and she will further discuss the video project as well as the current exhibits and events at historic Pilgrim Hall in 2023. On September 1, Pilgrim Hall will celebrate its 199th Birthday. There is a celebration of this milestone on that day. The General Meeting will re-convene at the Major John Bradford Homestead in Kingston, MA.

On August 6, the GWBC teamed up with the Warren Cousins, to co-host one of the Jones River Village Historic Society (JRVHS) Summer Breakfasts. The breakfast was very successful. The Summer Breakfast series is a major fundraiser for the JRVHS. The JRVHS is the steward of the Maj. John Bradford Homestead, which requires ongoing maintenance. The GWBC and Warren Cousins served over 100 breakfasts that morning. Our menu included blueberry pancakes, scrambled egg-vegetable combo and sausages. There is more information on the Breakfast in the Compact News. I would like to thank Marti Bobertz of the Warren Cousins in coordinating with the Warrens and Carol Anderson, JRVHS President for allowing us to host the event. In the future, we will strive to partner with other Mayflower Family Societies to host community events.

The GWBC continues to accept and welcome new members. A list of new members since the publishing of the previous newsletter appear on page 4. in the Compact News.

Our goal is to publish the Compact News a few times per year. Please let us know if you have any questions about the GWBC or interesting stories to add to future newsletters.

Best regards,

Henry “Chip” Bradford

President, GWBC

## Pilgrim Hall Museum Exhibits connecting Gov. William Bradford

**REAL/MYTHIC: PEOPLE OF EARLY PLYMOUTH A SPECIAL EXHIBITION AT PILGRIM HALL MUSEUM (JULY-DECEMBER 2023, MARCH-DECEMBER 2024) SPONSORED BY TINY & SONS AUTO GLASS**

Pilgrim Hall Museum's first major post-pandemic exhibition, is a biographical exploration of the coastal Wampanoag people and the first English settlers of Plymouth Colony. Opened since July, the exhibit features a wealth of rare documents and artifacts, historically themed artworks, and a series of mini-films on real-life historical figures. The exhibit will be on view to the public to December 2024, with changing content related to its core theme: what is known and not known about the people of early Plymouth.

The exhibit examines the stories of specific individuals, posing questions about their lives and experiences, and exploring related themes. What happened to Dorothy Bradford? Who was Samoset, the first Indigenous person to speak with the new English arrivals? What was Isaac Allerton's role in the world of colonial trade

A special feature is a handsomely constructed cedar amphitheater where visitors will view mini-films about Governor William Bradford and the Wampanoag sachem Ousamequin, to premiere later this fall. The films and kiosks were produced for the Museum by the Wampanoag-owned firm SmokeSignals of Mashpee, MA. Governor Bradford is represented at three stages of his life: as a orphaned child in England, portrayed by local volunteer James May; as Plymouth Colony's newly elected 2nd governor, played by Taylor Bradford; and as the mature historian of the colony, portrayed by Chip Bradford. Chip and Taylor are father and son, and direct descendants of William Bradford. The Bradford Film was shot on location at the historic Harlow House and Sparrow House in Plymouth. In a separate film, Ousamequin is played by Miles Bernadett Peters, Wampanoag Tribal member, shot on location on tribal land in Mashpee.

The new films are complemented by a series on the English and Wampanoag women of early Plymouth, including the wife of Wampanoag diplomat Hobbamock; teenage orphans

Priscilla Mullins and Mary Chilton; Awashonks, a female sachem; Susanna White Winslow, the colony's first English mother and bride; and Elinor Billington, widow of the Colony's first executed murderer.



In addition to films, the exhibit features special objects on loan, some on view for a short time only. Two 17th-century fragments of a dress associated with Priscilla Mullins Alden, from two separate collections, are displayed together for the first time. Both were passed down through the same line of Alden descendants but ended up in different family branches. One piece from the Collection of the Massachusetts Historical Collection will only shown only through September 24.



Continued on next Page

## FIRST DIALOGUE WILLIAM BRADFORD New England, 1648 MATERIAL: Ink on

William Bradford's lasting achievement was his journal, "Of Plimoth Plantation," which he began in 1630, writing off and on until 1650. In its handwritten pages, he recorded a detailed history of Plymouth Colony that scholars have gleaned for centuries. The journal is also an account of the spiritual journey that Bradford and those close to him had experienced. The original manuscript is at the State Library of Massachusetts in Boston. A handful of other writings by Governor Bradford physically exist, including remnants of a series of conversations that Bradford began noting down in the last decade of his life. He described them as transcriptions of "conferences" or "dialogues" held between "some younge men borne in New England" and "sundry Ancient men that came out of Holland and old England." The dialogues were Bradford's attempt to explain the motivations and beliefs of the Separatist congregation to the next generation, partly to defend against criticisms from Puritans in Boston and England, and to ensure that their story would not be forgotten. Three dialogues existed. On display is one of eight surviving pages of Bradford's original "First Dialogue" manuscript. In it, Bradford responds to claims that the Separatists had not endured real persecution in England compared to Puritans, describing how they had been imprisoned and forced to seek shelter in foreign lands.

LOAN FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY .

Pilgrim Hall Museum's first major post-pandemic exhibition, is a biographical exploration of the coastal Wampanoag people and the first English settlers of Plymouth Colony. Opened since July, the exhibit features a wealth of rare documents and artifacts, historically themed artworks, and a series of mini-films on real-life historical figures. The exhibit will be on view to the public to December . Real/Mythic invites deeper investigation of the human story of Plymouth and a pivotal episode in America's beginnings. For more information, visit [www.pilgrimhall.org](http://www.pilgrimhall.org) or call 508-746-1620. Hours:

The Museum is open five days/week from Wednesday through Sunday, from 9:30 am to 5 pm (last admission of the day at 4:30 pm).

Pilgrim Hall Museum is located at 75 Court Street (Route 3A), Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360.

Photo: Gov. William Bradford Statue, located at Mayflower Society Colonial Revival Garden, Plymouth,





**W E L C O M E N E W M E M B E R S !**

We are pleased to welcome new members to GWBC!

Each Member's descendent Grandchild of William Bradford is noted:

- Lucinda Jester-Smith, of Florida, descendant of Ephraim
- Jane Power, of Texas, descendant of Alice
- Rev. Beckett Soule, of North Carolina, descendant of Maj. John
- Maureen Oliver, of North Carolina, descendant of Hannah
- John Briggs III, of North Carolina, descendant of David
- Ella Marie Ochowicz, of Illinois, descendant of William
- Paul Fricke, of Michigan, descendant of Thomas
- Janet McComb, of New York, descendant of Abigail
- Elizabeth Rankes-Dias, of Connecticut, descendant of Hannah
- Claire Christian-White, of Wyoming, descendant of Hannah
- Stephen Curran, of Pennsylvania, descendant of Jerusha
- Mary Allard, of Massachusetts, descendant of Israel
- Lara Scarberry, of Massachusetts, descendant of Thomas

**G W B C I T E M S F O R S A L E :  
D R . J O H N P O G U E F L A G O R N A M E N T S A N D  
M A J . J O H N B R A D F O R D H O U S E N O T E C A R D S**

The GWBC still has about 50 Bradford flag ornaments for sale, made in the USA by Beacon Designs by ChemArt in Lincoln Rhode Island, the same manufacturer's of the White House Christmas ornaments. There are attractive Major John Bradford Homestead notecards, packs of 10 with envelopes, also made in the USA, Each ornament cost is \$25, and the Notecards cost are \$10.00, Both product costs cover shipping and handling and are available on the GWBC website ([www.mygwbc.org](http://www.mygwbc.org)).

You can also contact Annie John at [msanniejohn@gmail.com](mailto:msanniejohn@gmail.com) or Chip Bradford ([bradfordhenry@hotmail.com](mailto:bradfordhenry@hotmail.com)) for purchase.



GWBC exclusive ornaments, \$25



GWBC exclusive notecards, pack of 10 for \$10

*Major John Bradford Homestead*

## 2023 GWBC ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

### Jones River Village Historical Society

#### Sunday Summer Breakfast Series, August 6, 2023

The GWBC co-sponsored this breakfast with The Warren Cousins. The Breakfast Series is a major fundraiser for the JRVHS, which is held at the Major John Bradford House in Kingston. The turnout was large and the Bradford's and Warren's were making stacks of pancakes, cracking dozens of eggs along with other breakfast favorites. It just happened that his weekend was the Alden Family Meeting, so many Alden descendants enjoyed the breakfast with us. Special thanks to Taylor Bradford, Nick Trunfio, Nora Bradford and Rosemary Major who assisted in setting up, cooking and serving. I would also like to thank Marti Bobertz of the Warren Cousins for coordinating efforts on their end. There were many other JRVHS and community helpers who we certainly appreciated. We hope to sponsor another breakfast next summer.



#### GWBC General Meeting, September 9, 2023

Our next General Meeting will be held Saturday morning September 9 at the Major John Bradford House and Barn in Kingston MA. The address is 50 Landing Rd, Kingston, MA 02364 . The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00AM, but Members and Guests are welcome to arrive at 9:30AM for a meet and greet and enjoy some breakfast refreshments. Our Special guest this year is Dr. Donna Curtin, Executive Director of Pilgrim Hall, to discuss the many exhibits at the Museum, especially the Bradford associated exhibits, mentioned in the Newsletter. We look forward to seeing as many members as possible during this GSMD Triennial Meeting.

