

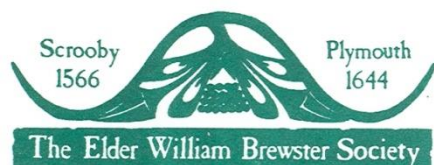
# ***THE ELDER BREWSTER PRESS***

A Publication of the Elder William Brewster Society

Volume 15, Number 2, Oct 2023

Web site- [www.brewsterfamily.org](http://www.brewsterfamily.org) - Gregory E. Thompson, webmaster

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Hello Brewster Society Members. I am very pleased to serve as your new president for the term of 2023-2026. I have been a member of the EWBS for over 30 years and am familiar with the society inside and out. Just a little about myself and my qualifications to serve as your new president. I am a professional genealogist and have served in the EWBS as Historian, Membership Chair, Secretary and served for the last 25 years as the Newsletter Editor. I am also the Governor of the Ct Society of Mayflower Descendants, have been a Registrar for the SAR, Former archivist for the Old Saybrook Historical Society and have served as Genealogist for the Avery Memorial Association, and the Daughters of the Cincinnati. I am also a member of several genealogical and historical societies.

My plans for the EWBS include, creating a scholarship Fund, offering memberships to those who are not descendants of Elder Brewster as a "Friend" and hope to make a difference in the Society in terms of making us known throughout genealogical and historical circles. The society has "slowed" in the last few years, and I intend to rectify that situation.

I am always looking for volunteers to move our society forward, we have slots open in many categories and if you are interested, please let me know. This is your society and new, fresh ideas are always welcome.

Your President – Gregory Evan Thompson

**ELDER WILLIAM BREWSTER SOCIETY  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
8/31/23 – 9/27/23**

Balance as of last report, presented at the  
Triennial Meeting                   \$39,531.89

**\*Receipts\***

Membership Dues	\$ 125.00
Application Fees	\$ 100.00
Tri. Mtg Dinners	\$ 210.00
Insignia	\$ 70.00
	\$ 505.00
	<b>\$40,036.89</b>

**EXPENSES**

Bal to Hotel 1620 for Tr. Mtg	\$ 792.04
Reimb J. Cobb for BD Cake	\$ 43.09

Balance as of 9/27/23                   \$39,200.86

Respectfully submitted – Jane E. Cobb  
Treasurer

**A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER**

It was a wonderful time in Plymouth and great to see some of our members. It was especially nice to meet some new Members: **WELCOME!!!**

The highlight for me was being able to celebrate Ben Brewsters 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was wonderful to see him, and we wish he and Anne well.

**Please check those expiration dates:**

Besides keeping your dues up to date, it is VERY important to keep us informed of any **postal or email** address changes. Please let

me know of any changes so that you can continue to receive the newsletters.

**DUES:** If you see **2023** on your mailing label, or on your membership card, you need to renew. Those of you that receive the newsletter via email, will need to check your membership cards. Please renew, so we don't lose you as a member!

**I am the one to contact, if you are unsure of your Membership Renewal Date.** Please do this as soon as possible. Postage is at an all-time high and it costs our society a lot of money to send out all the reminders. Again, just drop me an email, if you are not sure of your membership date.

Members who receive the newsletters via Postal mail	\$20.00
Members who receive the newsletters via email	\$15.00

**Checks must be made payable to The Elder William Brewster Society** and send to:

Jane Cobb, Treasurer  
Elder William Brewster Society  
604 Mallow Scrub Way  
Sebastian, FL 32958

Email:                   [brewsoc1620@gmail.com](mailto:brewsoc1620@gmail.com)

Warmest wishes:

Sincerely, Jane Cobb

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

The historian has approved 22 New Members. Please help me welcome them to our Society.

- Vincent R Martorana**

- Seaford, NY
2. **Dale A Brewster**  
Newport, OR
  3. **Jason R Estes**  
Newport, OR
  4. **Kristen Poulakis**  
Hampton Bay, NY
  5. **Edwin P Dierdoff**  
Renton, WA
  6. **Rebecca Lynn Miller**  
Freeport, ME
  7. **Kristine P Smith**  
Bayport, NY
  8. **William R Elliott**  
Queensland, Australia
  9. **Kristina C Anderson**  
Hudson, WI
  10. **Julia Ann Wilson**  
The Netherlands
  11. **Mary Rianhard**  
Vero Beach, FL
  12. **Kay Ellen Eramo**  
Merrimack, NH
  13. **Janice D Bowerman**  
Walnut Creek, CA
  14. **Elizabeth A Taylor**  
Fallbrook, GA
  15. **Ann Dix Lillius**  
Moline, IL
  16. **James A Dix**  
Endicott, NY
  17. **Jean Dix Edmunds**  
Moline, IL
  18. **Larry D Kincaid**  
Manchester, NY
  19. **Ann Marie Harris**  
Tavares, FL
  20. **Starr R Helms**  
Bogart, GA
  21. **Christine M Tissot**  
Plymouth, MA
  22. **Ella M. Ochowicz**  
Carol Stream, IL

**Welcome to these 22 New members.**

#### **REINSTATEMENT POLICY CHANGE**

We have been experiencing a lot of members who join for one 3- year period, then don't renew and then come back years later and wish to rejoin. Although we are very pleased to have older members return, it does cause us additional work. With that said we will now require that the new \$25.00 application fee be paid with new renewals that have expired for more than 1 year. A lot of times it is just a matter that you've changed your email address or moved and not let us know, and so we can't find you. So please keep us current on any changes in email or addresses when necessary.

The EWBS will soon be offering non-lineage memberships called "Friends of Elder Brewster" Many have shown interest in our society but lack the proof of lineage from the Elder. We will soon offer a "Friends" category of membership where you can join without having to prove lineage to the Elder.

**STAY TUNED FOR THIS OFFERING SOON**

#### **BREWSTER INSIGNIA**

We have a good supply of Brewster Insignia pins. This beautifully designed insignia created by our member William Warner of CT, celebrates our pride to be an Elder William Brewster descendant. Wear it with pride to your Mayflower Society meeting.

The pins can only be purchased by current Brewster Society members and eligibility will be checked at the time of purchase.

To order, they can be purchased for \$35.00 each plus \$5.00 shipping and handling.

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: EWBS**

**Mail all requests and checks to:**

Gregory Evan Thompson  
17 David Drive  
East Haven, Ct 06512-1125



**The Triennial Meeting of the Elder William Brewster Society was held on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> 2023. It was a great meeting and a sumptuous Thanksgiving type meal was served for dinner. The following are the minutes of the meeting.**

Submitted by Secretary Jon Schmidt  
The Triennial meeting of the Elder William Brewster Society (EWBS) was held as scheduled at hotel 1620 in Plymouth, MA on 9 Sep 2023.

Vice-President Stewart “Skip” Brewster welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m. Twenty-one members were present along with their guests.

Secretary Greg Thompson took the podium and delivered the invocation after which he directed attendees’ attention to printed copies of minutes from the previous two meetings (9 Sep 2017) and 25 Sep 2021) for approval. Ben Brewster moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Skip Brewster.

Treasurer Jane Cobb passed out the meeting agenda sheets. She also informed everyone that member Ben Brewster was turning 98 years old (prompting a round of applause.

Jane Cobb delivered the treasurer’s report, highlighting being:

Previous balance	\$39,120.01
Receipts	\$ 2,820.00
Total	\$41,940.01
Expenses	\$ 2,408.12
Current balance	\$39,531.89

Greg Thompson gave an update on the initiative to sponsor a bell honoring William Brewster in the Mayflower Meetinghouse. A zoom meeting was held on 25 Sep 2021 when it was voted on to donate \$15,000 to the Meetinghouse and to install a bell there to be called “The Brewster Bell”.

Historian and membership chairwoman Barbara Lee Kelly delivered her report, spanning from 2020 to present as follows:

- 2020 – 40 applicants approved
- 2021- 21 applicants approved
- 2022- 28 applicants approved
- 2023 (so far) 22 applicants approved with 96 applications received.

Greg Thompson announced (again) that after over two decades of assembling the periodic newsletter, he is (still) looking for another volunteer to relieve him. While some have expressed interest in performing the job for pay, Greg emphasized that this is a volunteer position. Greg also appealed to all who receive the newsletter electronically to ensure their e-mail address is correct/up to date, as every e-mailing of the newsletter inevitably results in a number of rejections.

Ben Brewster presented to the Society his framed print rendering of a bronze plaque located at Fort Revere in Hull, MA. The plaque (and print) depicts the Brewster Islands, located outside of Boston Harbor. Greg accepted the print on behalf of the EWBS.

Greg noted that the Brewster insignia pins continue to be available for \$35.00 in person or \$40.00 if ordered by mail. He also flashed an example of a Challenge Coin, being sold for the benefit of the Pilgrim Meetinghouse (upgrade & repair) which he encouraged folks to buy, and that if purchased today, you will be entered into a raffle to win a \$1000 gift certificate for the GSMD online store.

Greg Thompson brought up for discussion the idea of creating a "Friends of" Category of EWBS membership for those individuals who have an interest in supporting and participating in the society but cannot prove lineage. Member Charlotte Squarcy suggested that if this category is created, that the membership dues should be double that of conventional members. No concurrence arose from the floor. Member Raymond Wing proposed that "Friends of" membership would exclude both the right to wear Brewster insignia and to vote on

bylaw issues. The motion was seconded by Raymond Wing. Charlotte Squarcy suggested that Barbara Kelly use this provision (i.e a "Friends of" Associate category to accept the sizeable number of applicants currently on hold because of unproven lineage. Greg Thompson said that he will work with Barbara on verbiage to accommodate creation of this category of membership, as doing so will require bylaws change.

Charlotte Squarcy queried whether the Society's financial assets are in interest bearing instruments. The treasurer confirmed that they are. Charlotte suggested that if invested in CD's with a 5 percent rate of return, the proceeds could be sufficient to fund a scholarship. Charlotte was appointed to research potential CD's for this purpose. Member Kathryn Hauelsen moved that Charlotte be authorized to make investment recommendations directly to the board, and that the board be authorized to approve recommendations. The motion was seconded by member Pam Parella.

Skip Brewster repeated a recommendation from previous meetings that an essay contest be a component of the scholarship program.

Member Raymond wing moved that the Society include Y-DNA analysis results as a way of proving direct lineage to William Brewster in lieu of documentary evidence. Greg Thompson seconded the motion. All voted aye, except for one abstention. Greg Thompson announced the current slate of candidates for the EWBS officer positions for the next three years (2023-2026) as follows:

President	Gregory E Thompson
Vice-President	Skip Brewster
Treasurer	Jane Cobb
Historian/Mem.	Barbara Lee Kelly
Secretary	Jonathan Schmidt
Elder	Dr. Thomas Bird
Directors:	Laverda Sue Johnson
	David Stringfellow
	Easan Katir

No nominations were made from the floor, Ben Brewster moved those nominations be closed and the slate be approved, motions seconded by Skip Brewster. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Treasurer Jane Cobb gave additional congratulatory birthday remarks for Ben Brewster and distributed copies of a wickedlocal.com article based on a 2019 interview with Ben. The Happy birthday song was provided, and a birthday cake was shared with the group.

Greg Thompson reiterated to the assembly that previous newsletters are stored and available for review on the website at [www.brewstersociety.org](http://www.brewstersociety.org).

Greg Thompson reiterated the need for the name “Wentworth be removed from the Elder Brewster headstone on burial hill. It was resolved that Greg and Barbara Kelly will work on getting this done.

Kathryn Haueisen provided examples of two books she has written and has available for sale. They are: “*Mayflower Chronicle*, *Mayflower Chronicles*, *The Tale of Two Cultures* and another, *Mary Brewster’s Love Life*, *Matriarch of the Mayflower*. Both books can be purchased at her website at: [www.HowWiseThen.com](http://www.HowWiseThen.com).

The board thanks her for sharing this with the group.

Skip Brewster adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

At 5p.m there was a cocktail hour followed at 6 p.m. for dinner, a sumptuous Thanksgiving meal with Turkey and all the trimmings and delicious desserts. After dinner, Greg Thompson gave a presentation on “Famous Brewsters” a biography of thirteen descendants of Elder William Brewster.

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### MEMBER ARTICLES

The following is an article that was published by wickedlocal.com in Plymouth Ma, where they interviewed our member and former EWBS president, Ben Brewster who just turn 98.

**98-Year-old, member, Benjamin Brewster**



“When they were starting Plimoth Plantation, they were putting up signs of where each family’s house was going to be, and if you were a descendant you were supposed to stand in front of that sign. I lined up for Elder Brewster’s house, and I thought that was all right. And every time they put up another sign, my uncle said, “Get over there, Ben, you come from there

too" so I have no idea how many there are. I would think I come from probably half a dozen lines or so that come down from the Mayflower. We know I'm a direct descendant of William Brewster and John Alden. I honestly don't know the others.

It's a thing that I have always had but I have never paid much attention to it. That sort of thing must be more than Brewster and Alden. After the plague, there weren't many choices of who you would marry. After the first terrible winter, half of them died. I think there were six or eight eligible women left over. The second generation of Pilgrims didn't have much choice but to marry another Pilgrim. The next invasion of white people was in Boston, and that was only 10 years later, and there was interchange between Boston and Plymouth, unless you wanted to marry an Indian. So, I'm sure the blood lines go back to more than those that I know, but I have no idea who they are."

"The Elder moved to Duxbury- that's William Brewster. There are a lot of Williams; that's why I say the elder. He and Jonathan, who came after on a later boat- that was his eldest son- the elder brought three kids and his wife. Jonathan was older and otherwise engaged. I don't know what he was doing in Holland. He came at a later date. I don't know when that was."

"They moved to Duxbury- Elder Brewster and Miles Standish had Captain's Hill over there, in those days, it was part of Plymouth Colony."

"My grandfather was a banker, and my father, Ellis Brewster, was head of Plymouth Cordage. He was president. There was a politician in those days- Cozy Barrett, and

there was a fable that I love. Everybody called him "Cozy" he was a Jim Curley type person, and he said there were two things that were wrong that ruined Plymouth; one was Plymouth Cordage Company and the other was the Pilgrim Society. My father was president of both at that time (laughter) Cozy was a character and he loved being a character. Grandfather was a banker at Plymouth 5 Cent Savings bank on Court Street. He was William Wetherell Brewster. My brother was William Souther Brewster, and Souther was my grandmother's maiden name. That line came from Dorchester, not from Plymouth. Ellen Hatch, my mother- her lineage came from the Southers and the Hatches from Maine and Dorchester, which was quite a posh place to live in those days."

"When the Rev. Peter Gomes first started working on 2020 (that was 10 years now I guess) he recruited a whole bunch of us and we did some work on it. Peter said "Ben, why don't you become the vice-chair of this thing?" Peter was chair. And I said "I will, Peter, when you get struck by lightning," Shortly thereafter he had a heart attack and he said "Ben" and I said "NO, Peter, I said lightning" I didn't get much involved because I didn't think I'd still be here in 2020 because I'm getting along in years and I don't know how many of them there are left."

"Everyone tries to equate 2020 with the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which was a big, big, big affair. During the Tricentennial they tore the waterfront down and replaced it with grass. The waterfront was all piers; this was a commercial port. There were half a dozen big wharves down there. Cole's Hill was all little shops, so that was cleaned out and replaced with grass. The wharves were torn

down, and they made the park down there. And there were big extravaganzas with casts of thousands, literally. It was a big deal”.

“We were thinking way back when we started on 2020, what we could leave as the memorial to 2020- what, in years to come, what people would think looking back on it. We never did come up with anything. I’m not sure they’ve come up with anything yet. My son Wrestling is involved in 2020 leadership. He does a lot of things; he’s on the Plymouth Harbor Committee and 2020 and the Old Colony Club. He’s a civic person.”

“We have done an ancestral tour to England with the Mayflower Society that ran it. It was interesting to see the places these people came from. William was born in Scrooby, and his father and he were postmasters, which in those days was something more than just delivering the mail. He was an imposing individual. He was educated; he gone to Cambridge. He was secretary of state to the English and worked for a time in the Tower of London. He was quite old for those days; I think he was in his 40s when he came over. We descend from the elder’s son, Love, and about two or three Wrestling’s. I think I’m ninth generation, so Wrestling my son is 10th.”

“We’ve been through the arrival of the Mayflower II (1957) when we put up some of the crew when they came. That was when we had Captain Villiers here and Nancy. We’ve been involved with Plimoth Plantation. My brother, William, was extremely involved. He and Harry Hornblower were buddies. My brother and Harry Hornblower started Plimoth Plantation.”

“I’m the result of the Mayflower heritage; the heritage is not the result of me. We have not been here for 400 years. We may look it, but we’re not.”

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### HELP US RESTORE THE MAYFLOWER MEETINGHOUSE

Treat yourself to this beautiful Challenge coin where all profits go to restoring the Mayflower Meeting house. So far this coin has raised almost \$4500.

Available at the CT Mayflower Society website. [www.ctmayflower.org](http://www.ctmayflower.org)

(Postage is being paid by G.E.T.)



Front

Reverse

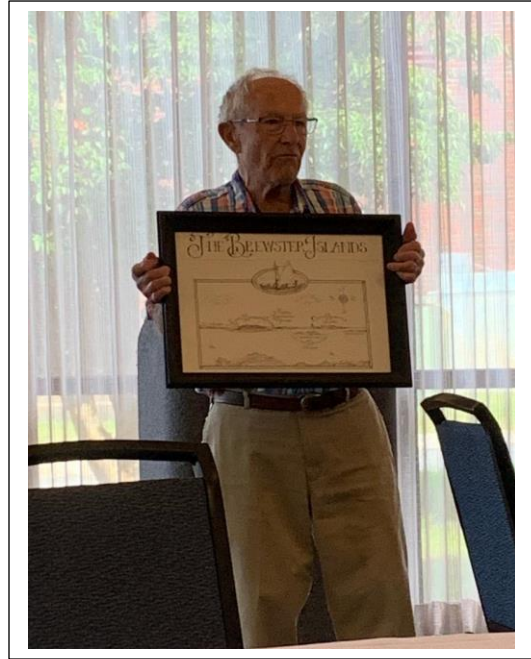
Please help me raise money for this very important piece of history and to help educate the public about the Pilgrims.

### PICTURES FROM THE TRIENIAL MEETING





**Brewster Society Officers**  
**Skip Brewster -VP, Jane Cobb – Treas. Greg**  
**Thompson – President, Barbara Kelley-membership**  
**And Historian, Jonathan Schmidt – Secretary.**



**Ben Brewster donated a picture.**  
**Of the Brewster Islands**



**Treasurer Jane Cobb wishing**  
**Ben Brewster a happy 98<sup>th</sup>**  
**Birthday**

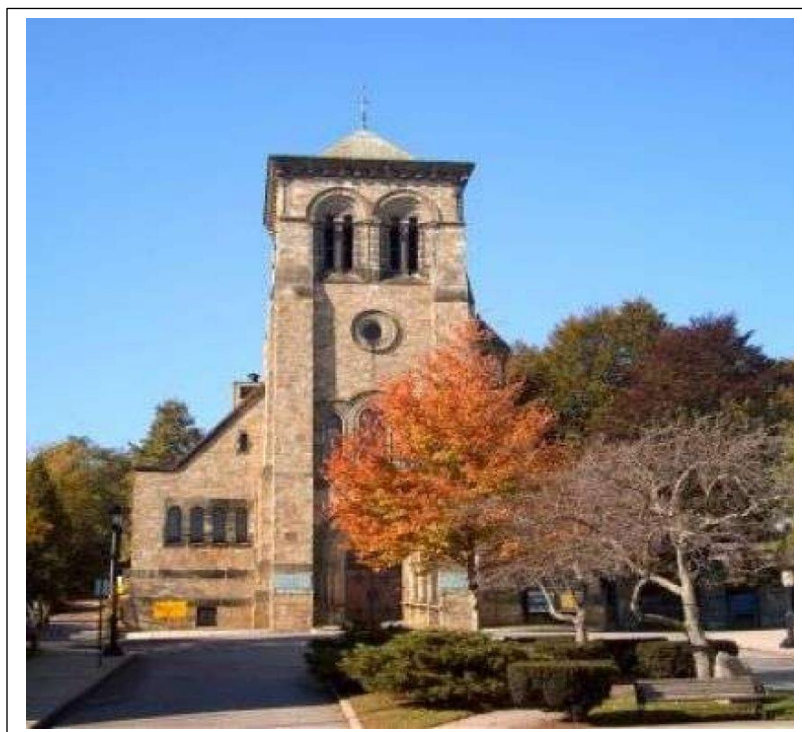


**98-year-old member and former President**  
**Of the EWBS admiring his birthday Cake.**

**ELDER WILLIAM BREWSTER PRESS**

**17 DAVID DRIVE**

**EAST HAVEN. CT 06512-1125**



**MAYFLOWER MEETINGHOUSE**