



# Tilley Times

The quarterly newsletter of the Elizabeth Tilley Colony of  
the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants

May 2009

## *Governor's Message*

*May 2009*

“We seem to have many members in the Tilley Colony that are very dedicated which is why I believe we have the most congenial Colony in the State of which I am proud to be a member.” These are the exact words that I used as the closing statement of the March 2009 Message. Why did I say that?

Every time that we have a meeting, more and more people are coming forward with little bits of information about their heritage or their ancestry. At our last meeting we were privileged to hear our Florida State Historian discuss “Women of the Mayflower,” our DNA and why we might have crooked toes, or why when we laugh it sounds like a sneeze or a braying donkey. Don’t laugh. Some of us got crooked toes because we were barefoot and kicked a horse bun out in the pasture and found out it was a rock. Crooked toes on other family members were possibly inherited from great Aunt Gussie or Uncle George. One never knows until they dig into the archives and find tid-bits of information like this. Many people would just comment with, “Who cares”? Personal historic family stories are just like anything else that we read, we are either interested or we aren’t interested. Listen to different members of your family when they laugh or sneeze. Do they sound like an uncle or aunt that you have known?

So you see, we all have different stories that we can tell that are humorous or just plain facts that depict life in general. For example, read the story provided by Winn Taplin this month. He speaks about the Newton family and their origin and provides a picture of a landmark in the community where they resided and went to church. **Continued on Page 6**

**This months meeting will be a special event,  
never before has this been done.**

**Not only will we present our Elizabeth Tilley Colony scholarship to  
Our student from Palmetto High School, but the Florida Society scholarship winner  
Will be presented a scholarship at the same meeting by the State Scholarship Chair  
Laura Brock. The State Winner’s sponsor is a member of the Tilley Colony .**



MESSAGE FROM YOUR  
NEW ELDER:

My name is Jim Collins. I need cooperation from all of you in getting any news to me about Colony Members who are ill or who have passed away.

My phone number in Venice is (941) 496-4021; and my e-mail address is:

[deriterjmc@att.net](mailto:deriterjmc@att.net)

Thank you

Dear Members; The cost of sending the "TILLEY TIMES" is starting to compete for the same rates as when the Pony Express was in business. Yes, the Pony Express was fast while our current mail system is much faster but, we can make it even faster if you will allow us to send your "TILLEY TIMES" via email and significantly reduce our cost of mailing. Therefore, if you have an email address, please send it to Ren Cushing, our newsletter editor, and we can start the cost reduction process immediately. We will continue to mail the "TILLEY TIMES" to those who do not do computers.

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**Come join your Pilgrim Cousins  
on the**

**Florida Mayflower Society  
Thanksgiving Week Cruise  
Cruise Planners-**

**Wendy and Mark Cushing  
Toll Free# 888-802-0750 Email:  
wcushing@cruiseplanners.com  
website.**

***LifeisGoodGoCruising.com***

Errors in spelling and punctuation  
Are inserted from time to time by  
the editor to test your powers of  
observation. If you see errors no-  
tify the editor and you will be re-  
warded with a pat on the back..

At the March meeting our speaker was Muriel Curtis Cushing, State Historian, who spoke on “Women of The Mayflower, interwoven with Women of the Revolution. Colony Governor Crapo introduced Muriel by reading her Credentials.



Only five women survived the first winter. One of the five survivors, Mrs. Katherine Carver, died in May of a "broken heart," her husband John having died of sunstroke a month earlier. Weak bodies or not, by the time of the famous "Thanksgiving," there were only four women left to care for the Colony's fifty men and children. The four women were Eleanor Billington, Elizabeth Hopkins, Mary Brewster, and Susanna Winslow. Susanna Winslow was the widow of William White who died the first winter; she remarried to Edward Winslow, whose wife Elizabeth had also died the first winter. Incidentally, all the wives who had been left behind Were still living. Four of them came on the ship Anne in 1623, had additional children, and raised their families at Plymouth.

Colony Governor Crapo presented Muriel a certificate of appreciation For speaking to the Colony



Valorie Sherman introduces newest Member Sharon Pratt



My Mayflower line comes through my grandmother, Flora Newton Taplin. I am certain that neither she nor my father ever knew that their genealogical roots went back to the Mayflower. How could such important family information have been lost? The Vermont Newtons were original settlers and founders of Barnard, Vermont. And Newtons there have long been aware that their Newton roots go back to both Stephen Hopkins and William Brewster. But my grandmother always reported, accurately, that she was born in Royalton, Vermont (1858). Why did neither she nor my father realize that her Newton ancestry was actually based in nearby Barnard. Genealogists have learned that Royalton has almost no connections to Vermont Newtons.

Flora Newton Taplin was the daughter of second marriages for both her father and mother -- Asa Newton, a widower, and widow Elvira (nee Camp) Beard (first marriage). When Flora Newton was five years old (1863) and living in Royalton with her parents, Asa Newton was killed. To quote the death record, he "fell from the church." This left Elvira Newton with two small Newton girls and other children from her first marriage. She seems, understandably enough, to have turned to her Camp family rather than to her Newton in-laws. In fact, I do not recall of my grandmother ever having been in contact with Newton relatives.

In addition, Flora Newton had to start carrying responsibilities at an early age. As a teen-ager, she was already a teacher in one-room schools. And she had moved from the Central Vermont area where so many Newtons resided. It was as a school teacher that she came to East Corinth, Vermont. There she met, and in 1882 married, a local farmer, Frank Taplin. Flora and Frank had two sons -- neither of whom stayed in Corinth to take over the Taplin Hill family farm. But Flora Newton Taplin became a locally renowned leader in the East Corinth religious community. She guided the church young people's group for several decades -- until her death in 1943. She was an early 'woman's activist' as a supporter and regional officer in the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Her death in 1943 was the first time since the founding of Corinth, Vermont, in 1763 that there had been no one on the town rolls named Taplin.

Actually, any who read this have seen photos of Flora Taplin's home and the nearby East Corinth Congregational church. Photos of East Ciorinth have for nearly one-hundred years been the archetype rural Ameriocan vil-lage. And central to many of these photos is the Taplin home with the church seen behind it. When the church was built in 1912, two of the stained glass windows were dedicated in honor of Flora Newton Taplin. And when a new pulpit was installed after World War II, it, too, was dedicated to her. She was a gracious lady and beloved figure in her home town. I only wish that she could have known that her roots went back to the very beginning of the European settlement of New England.



Frank Taplin

5<sup>th</sup> Child of Aristarchus and Sophronia (Sawyer) Taplin



m.

Flora Newton

Frank Taplin b. September 4 1849 - d. April 20, 1932  
m. Oct 1, 1882 to Flora Newton b. 1858 - d. 1943 - 2 children Fred and Winn Lowell



### Young Winn Taplin with his Grandparents



When I was a young boy growing up in Duxbury Massachusetts, I was Always fascinated by the old “Cable House” What cable does it refer to I Wondered. I was told it was a cable from France to Duxbury. Impossible I thought.

.Later I found ...The answer is about 1870. The first trans-Atlantic cable was run between Ireland and Newfoundland in 1856-57, and signals were passed along it on 16 August 1857, but it was operated at voltages too high for the insulation it used and it failed a month later. The first successful cable was run along the same route in 1865-66, and worked until 1877, by which time several other cables had been run. One of those, laid in about 1870, ran from Brest in France to Duxbury MA, and would be the first between the USA and Europe. These were all telegraph cables, of course. (This info from the 1910 Encyclopedia Britannica.)

France laid its first submarine cable across the Atlantic in 1869, from the cove of Petit Minou (about 10km west of Brest on the French mainland) to Saint-Pierre et Miquelon (off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada), with an extension to Duxbury, Massachusetts.

It all started back around 1850 and was conceived, constructed and seen to it's fruition by Cyrus Field in 1858 when he ran an under seas cable from Ireland to Newfoundland... This proved to be a great time saver ( time is money ) as a 28 day round trip by wooden ship could see many business decisions gone to change. The next effort was to lay a cable from France to the USA... This was accomplished by the Steam Ship 'Great Eastern' from Brest France to St. Pierre, Michelon Island ( off Newfoundland ) thence to the Massachusetts shores across Rouse's Hummock just south of Brant Rock to the Duxbury Cable Station. It was so successful even with myriad problems and heartaches that the second attempt was another cable, again from Brest France direct this time to Orleans on Cape Cod.

The first messages measured in today's money went for the equivalent of around \$500...If the operator on duty miss interpreted a message, he was docked a DAYs pay... Information was MONEY..When the Portland Gale Storm of 1898 blew all land line telegraph operations away in this area, the news of the 'Portland' sinking was relayed via the under seas cable to Paris then back to New York via another cable...

The whole project was a marvel of human engineering and you can visit the cable station today in Orleans at the original building and see the equipment as used then which is still in working order... Ten local business men purchased the entire cable set-up from the French Government after the cable closed on November 26th. 1959...

Ren





**ELIZABETH TILLEY COLONY  
Treasurer's Report – 31 Mar 2009**

<b>TOTAL IN COMMUNITY NATIONAL BANK 28 Feb 2009:</b>	<b>\$6,471.34</b>	
Scholarship Fund 28 Feb 2009:	<b>\$2,490.80</b>	
New Donations:	176.00	Fidelity Interest
	92.84	268.84
<b>Total Scholarship Fund 31 Mar 2009:</b>	<b>\$2,759.64</b>	
<b>General Fund 28 Feb 2009:</b>	<b>\$3,980.54</b>	
Receipts:	\$ 307.00	
Disbursements:	( 121.31) \$ 185.59	
<b>Total General Fund 31 Mar 2009:</b>	<b>\$4,166.13</b>	
<b>TOTAL IN COMMUNITY NATIONAL BANK 31 Mar 2009:</b>	<b>\$6,925.87</b>	

We acknowledge with thanks and appreciation the generous new donations to our Scholarship Fund from: J. Benson, J. Collins, H. Crapo, Art & Barb Flint, R. Kendall, B. Lambert, J. Newbegin, L. Smith.

**FIDELITY – The Puritan Fund (ETC Scholarship Endowment Fund)**  
 Balance 12/31/08 report 844.323 shares @\$13.06/sh \$11,026.86

Mary Lou Johnson  
ETC Treasurer

**Continued from page 1:**

When I asked, during our last meeting, for people to write short articles about their families, their findings in their research or other items of interest, I watched the faces of people and heard some of their remarks. Just be glad that I didn't have a tape recorder with me. What I heard was several parts of stories in themselves, some of them quite humorous. Others were more serious. For example, when was the art of fencing introduced to this country or did Captain John Smith start when he used his sword the first time in Jamestown? Believe it or not, that story was right in the room with us. Just maybe we can get the individual to tell us the true story sometime. How about it J-----. Gee, I forgot the name for the moment but I'll remember it sooner or later and then let you know 'the rest of the story.'

I ask that other members of our colony follow in Muriel's footsteps and share subject matter relative to history that they are familiar with. When we all get together, we have a most valuable resource of information. Let's share it with others either at the podium or in this newsletter.

*Harold Crapo, Jr.*  
Governor  
Tilley Colony

**Colony Secretary Needed**  
We are in need of a colony secretary. If anyone is interested  
Contact Governor Harold Crapo

**Time:** Saturday, May 9, 2009. Social hour begins at 11:00 A.M. Lunch is at 12 Noon.

Location: Holiday Inn Lido Beach

233 Ben Franklin Drive

Sarasota, FL 34236 Phone (941) 388-5555 PROGRAM: SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

Directions:

From I-75 exit at Fruitville Road: Proceed west toward Sarasota to US 41 Tamiami Trail

Turn Left on Route 41 and get into the right lane.

Turn Right at FL Route 789 (John Ringling Blvd) and cross over the bridge.

At St Armands Circle take the second exit to continue on John Ringling Blvd.

Continue on to Ben Franklin Drive, bear left at the fork in the road on to Ben Franklin.

Holiday Inn is a short way on the left.

Parking lot is in the rear. Take the elevator to the 7th floor

From U.S 41: Turn at FL Route 789 (John Ringling Blvd) and cross over the bridge.

And follow above directions'

**Menu:** Small Garden Salad served with choice of dressings

Warm Rolls with Butter

Choice A: Grouper Picatta

Choice B: Honey Baked Ham with a delicate Pineapple Raisin Sauce

Choice C: Vegetarian offering. Fruit Cup; Entrée, Garden Salad with a  
Choice of dressings.

Chefs selection of accompaniments and dessert, .Coffe, and Iced tea

Cost Including Tip \$ 20.00



## REGISTRATION FORM

Reservations must be received by May 4th, 2009.

Make your check payable to the Elizabeth Tilley Colony.

Send your check and this form to: Mary Lou Johnson, Treasurer

6633 Vista Lane

North Port, FL 34287-2631

If you have questions, please call Mary Lou at 941-426-6772.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Menu Selection: A: Grouper Picatta: # \_\_\_\_\_

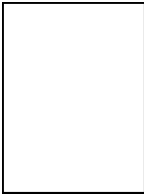
B: Honey Baked Ham : # \_\_\_\_\_

C: Vegetarian offering # \_\_\_\_\_

Payment:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dues (\$30)      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Donation

Total Amount of Check: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_



Elizabeth Tilley Colony  
Mary Lou Johnson Treasurer  
6633 Vista Lane  
Northport, FL 34287-2631

Be sure to visit the  
Florida State Mayflower Society website at  
**[www.geocities.com/flmayflower](http://www.geocities.com/flmayflower)**  
and the Elizabeth Tilley Colony website at  
**[www.geocities.com/fletilley](http://www.geocities.com/fletilley)**

**“Tilley Times”** newsletter

Dated material, open immediately