

Greetings from the Texas Society Governor—Bart Henson



Texas Society of Mayflower
 Descendants Governor Bart
 Henson

In the fall season, my thoughts go to that first Thanksgiving when our Pilgrim ancestors were thankful to our God that they had made it through the harvest with a good crop and that the local Indians were willing to work with them rather than fighting with them. As William Bradford, their Governor, said "They began now to gather in the small harvest they had, and to prepare their houses for the winter, being well recovered in health and strength, and plentifully provisioned".

As all of our colonies will be holding luncheons or meetings this fall to commemorate our heritage, I encourage you to become involved in your local colony. Our colonies now number eight (Amarillo, Central Texas, Corpus Christi, Dallas/ Ft. Worth, Houston, San Antonio, Tyler and Waco). Join one! Attend!

In the spring I had the privilege of visiting three colonies (Amarillo, Corpus Christi, and San Antonio) and I hope to visit at least two others this fall. Colony Governors will be meeting in San Antonio early in October to share thoughts about how to make your society more effective and more fun. I will report to you our results in the next newsletter early in 2008.

Linda Hill is working on our new "Yearbook". Mike Nichols has freshened and moved our website to <http://www.texasmayflower.com>. Carol Scarborough and Jerrie Geisler are working hard on getting new members and juniors, respectively, approved. Madeline Alworth is thinking about how to broaden and deepen our Education efforts. Pat Nichols is updating our membership database. Things are busy!

To support our Education program and the Texas Mayflower Society, I urge you to include an extra amount when you pay your dues this fall for 2008. These gift funds will go to the Texas Mayflower Fund and the proceeds will be distributed to support our Education and other activities. Thank you!



The First Thanksgiving

As we commemorate that first Thanksgiving which occurred some 386 years ago, may we also be thankful to our Lord that we have all been a part of establishing a great nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all. I wish you and yours a blessed Thanksgiving and upcoming Christmas season.

Bart

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**GSM D website is
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Inside this issue:

<i>History of the Texas Society</i>	2
<i>Trivia from the Corr. Secy</i>	3
<i>E-Mail & Web Site Update</i>	3
<i>Education Committee</i>	4
<i>Focus on the Colonies</i>	5
<i>Why Join The Society?</i>	6
<i>Colony News</i>	6
<i>Membership Changes</i>	8
<i>2008 Annual Meeting</i>	10



Looking Back---The History Of The Texas Society

By Mary E. Eck, Past Texas Society Governor, Recording Secretary



Mrs. Edwin Oliver Sarrat, Sr.,
3rd State Governor
1937-1938



Wilber Leslie Evans,
1st State Governor
1932/1934

The formation of a Texas Mayflower Society grew from an idea of Ira H. Evans who was instrumental in establishing the SAR in Texas and who sponsored the founding meeting of the Texas State Historical Society at his home in Austin in 1888 or 1889. Through these organizations, he became acquainted with other Mayflower Descendants who joined him in applying for a charter from the SOMD. These people included Mrs. Charlotte Norton Sarratt and Miss Mary Frances Norton. With their help, other eligible members were located, and the first step toward realization of the Society began. The group contacted Mr. Whitmore Morris, a very capable genealogist, to assist in preparing applications.

Late in the fall of 1931, the group held an organizational meeting with 14 of 20 qualified descendants in attendance.

On December 24, 1931, the group petitioned the General Society of Mayflower Descendants for a State Charter which was granted in late 1931 or early 1932. With Wilber Leslie Evans, son of Ira, serving as Acting Governor, the members accepted the Charter at the first official meeting held on Friday, February 5, 1932, at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio.

Since that day, the Texas Society has grown in the number of members and colonies. For many years San Antonio hosted the Annual Meeting. It became prudent, because of the size of Texas, to consider the organization of colonies across the state.

An early agreement existed that San Antonio would not organize a separate colony until other colonies formed. This caused some rivalry when Houston rushed to organ-

ize a colony on October 8, 1945, followed by the San Antonio Colony on August 6, 1946. These were followed by Dallas/Fort Worth Colony (1946), Abilene Colony (1948, later dissolved), Corpus Christi Colony (1962), Amarillo Colony (1992), Austin Colony (1996), Waco Colony (2003), and Tyler Colony (2006).

The Texas Society has enjoyed progress through capable leadership which has been recognized by The General Society Board of Assistants. The GSBA chose to meet in San Antonio in 2002. The attendees enjoyed the famous Texas hospitality which included a tour of the Hill Country, a visit to a working ranch, dinner on the river, and a tour of historical San Antonio. The latest special event was the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Texas Society, held in San Antonio.

Interesting things to know:

1. The historical memorabilia and records of the Texas Society are housed in the Archives at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio. These items can be checked out or seen when visiting the Institute.
2. The special Charter Cabinet, designed and made by Wilbur Evans, contains the original Charter and is housed at the Institute.
3. The power point presentation created for the 75th Anniversary on the history of the Texas Society has been put on a CD with each colony having a copy.
4. The Texas Society history is part of the Centennial History, GSMD, 1897-1997, published in 1999 by the GSMD.
5. The Menger Hotel in San Antonio placed a plaque on its patio wall commemorating the organization of the Texas Society there in 1931.
6. Members of the Texas Society participated in the Battle of Flowers Parade, at the inception of the parade which is part of the annual Fiesta celebration in San Antonio. Today members participate in the Pilgrimage to the Alamo parade during Fiesta week.
7. Miss Alice W. Lathrop was the first person to leave a sizable legacy to the Texas Society.

More information can be found in the state Yearbook on the Texas Society, the Past Governors, the first officers, Miss Alice W. Lathrop, founders and charter members, and the Objects of the Society.



Trivia from the Corresponding Secretary

by Pat Nichols, Corresponding Secretary

The following questions are based on the membership data of the Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants as of 9-15-2007. (The answers are on Page 4)

1. What percentages of members of the Texas Society belong to a colony?

- a. 100%
- b. 61%
- c. 22%
- d. 38%

2. Which Mayflower ancestor has the most descendants in the State of Texas? (This is the first ancestor that was applied under)

- a. William Bradford
- b. William Brewster
- c. John Alden
- d. Richard More

3. Which Mayflower ancestor has the fewest descendants in the State of Texas? (Again the first ancestor)

- a. Richard More
- b. Degory Priest
- c. Henry Samson
- d. William Brewster

4. How many of our current members were approved in 2006?

- a. 107
- b. 63
- c. 80
- d. 12

5. Who do I contact if I move, change email addresses, or know of a member that has died?

- a. UPS
- b. Corresponding Secretary
- c. Colony Governor
- d. Plymouth

E-Mail and Web Site Update

by Mike Nichols, Publications Chair

E-mail

Here's another trivia item for you. We have e-mail addresses for 43% of our members. That's pretty impressive! One of the things we would like to do is use e-mail to let our members know about activities on a more timely basis.

In order to update our records, we are printing the e-mail address we have on file for you as part of the mailing label on the last page of this newsletter. Please take a minute to look at it and verify that we have the correct e-mail address for you. If we do not have one for you, it will read 'E-Mail Not On File' If you have an e-mail address, or the one we have is not correct, please let us know what it is. Send updates to the Corresponding Secretary, Pat Nichols, at patricia.a.nichols@gmail.com.

Website

We have also moved our internet web site to our own internet name at <http://www.texasmayflower.com> (or you can use <http://www.texasmayflowersociety.com>). The new site gives us much more room, and we hope to use it to post articles, updates and photos from various events soon after they occur.

We have also created a web site for each Colony to provide the same ability to communicate with members and prospective members. The Colony web sites are:

- <http://www.amarillo.texasmayflower.com>
- <http://www.centraltexas.texasmayflower.com>
- <http://www.corpuschristi.texasmayflower.com>
- <http://www.dfw.texasmayflower.com>
- <http://www.houston.texasmayflower.com>
- <http://www.sanantonio.texasmayflower.com>
- <http://www.tyler.texasmayflower.com>
- <http://www.waco.texasmayflower.com>

Pat Taylor and Mary Eck put together a slide show presentation on the history of the Texas Society for the 75th Anniversary Celebration in San Antonio. Now all of our members can see this delightful presentation on our web site.

There have been several changes in our By Laws in the past few years. The current By Laws are available on our web site as well.

There are lots of things we can now do with our web site. Please take a few minutes to check it out, and let me know what you think. Suggestions are always welcome.

Mike Nicholsnichols.ms@gmail.com



Trivia from the Corresponding Secretary

Answers

- 1 d (28%. We really need to do a better job of getting our members to join a colony!)
- 2 b (William Brewster has 127 descendants. John Alden is a close second with 126)
- 3 a (Richard More is the clear winner (or loser) here – only 1)
- 4 c (2006 was a record year!)
- 5 b (A must – I will contact Plymouth as well, to ensure that you continue to receive your *Mayflower Quarterly* - the Colony Governor's receive a monthly report with all address changes, email changes, so one notice to me covers all the Mayflower bases – patricia.a.nichols@gmail.com or PO Box 410, Georgetown, TX 78627-0410)

Juniors!!!

We often lose track of our Junior members before they transition to adult membership. If you sponsored a Junior and are aware of an address change, please notify the Corresponding Secretary at patricia.a.nichols@gmail.com or at 817-366-9127.

Remember that they can become adult members at a reduced fee. Once they go to college or get married, they often miss the opportunity to jump to adult membership, and they will have to start the application process all over again. How about giving your 18 year old Junior a present – an adult membership in the Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants for only \$60 – a savings of \$40 over a new applicant. Contact the Corresponding Secretary to start that process.

Help Find The Lost

Over the years the Texas Society has lost track of some members. If you know the whereabouts of any of these members, please contact Pat Nichols at patricia.a.nichols@gmail.com or at 817-366-9127

- Kevin Michael Mamminga – last known location, Dallas, lost Spring 2007
- Franklin Pierce Ross Fennekohl, last known location, Houston, lost since 1997
- Heather Lee McCumber Wilson, last known location, Houston, lost Spring 2007
- William MacGreggor Bell, last known location, Fort Worth, lost Spring 2007.

Please do not join the “lost”. Remember to contact the Corresponding Secretary if you move. She will take care of notifying Plymouth, so that you continue to receive your Society mailings.



Education Committee

by Madeline Alworth, Texas State Educational Chair

As your educational chair for The Society of Mayflower Descendants of Texas, I am reminded each day that it will not matter what we really accomplish in life unless we touch the “minds and hearts” of a child. Plimoth Plantation and Pilgrim Hall Museum have made children and teachers the very focus of their world; while making learning fun. Kim Von Wormer is the Education Director of Plimoth Plantation and after visiting with her, you can tell that her devotion to children is just outstanding! Web sites you can visit are www.pilgrimhall.org and <http://www.plimoth.org>. At the Plimoth Plantation web site, click on the Education Programs and then click on the online learning center (OLC) and it will give you lots of new ideas. “Felix and His Mayflower II Adventures” is a new children’s book, and you can print coloring pictures for kids free!

At the Pilgrim Hall Museum web site, visit the Thanksgiving Children’s book section, “1621, A New Look at Thanksgiving” by Grace and Bruchac. Also, check out the book, “Squanto’s Journey” by Joseph Bruchac. There is a series of books “The Library of the Pilgrims” by Whitehurst, that takes a comprehensive look at the lives and times of our forefathers. At both locations you will find many added features including many DVD’s for all ages to explore.

This year’s education theme, “Reaching Children—One School at a Time” should keep us focused on the overall goal of finding new ways to reach out to all children in the state of Texas. The reward of seeing their faces light up as they are eager to learn more about our ancestors is a plus benefit. You never know: “You just might be telling your pilgrim story to a future member of TSOMD.



Focus on the Colonies

San Antonio Colony: History, Education and Friendships

by Susanne Scott, San Antonio Colony Governor

As the colony in the founding city of the Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants, the San Antonio Colony enjoys a proud history of advancing awareness of our Pilgrim ancestry.

The San Antonio Colony attained colony status on August 6, 1946. Several of the colony's founding members were also founding members of the Texas Society. Members have remained active in the State Society serving in all offices including several terms as governor. The San Antonio Colony has hosted two important Mayflower events in recent years: the General Society Board of Assistants and the State Society 75th Anniversary celebration.

Locally, the colony meets four times a year in February/March, April/May, September/October with Compact Day celebrated as close to November 21st as can be scheduled. The meetings are scheduled on Saturdays for lunch usually beginning at 11:30 a.m. and are held at a local restaurant. At each meeting, an interesting program focused on an aspect of local, state or national history or a historically-based book of interest to our members is provided by a member of the colony or an invited speaker. The meeting agenda also includes a "Mayflower Minute" to focus the members' attention on the life and times of our Mayflower ancestors. The agenda then includes a report by each of the colony officers.

The colony has a tradition of education dating back to its beginning. Records indicate that members distributed copies of the Mayflower Compact to all local schools. More recently, the colony's education committee has visited schools dressed in Pilgrim attire to provide an entertaining program introducing school children to the life on the Mayflower and the settlement at New Plymouth. The colony has also donated the book *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick and other age-appropriate Pilgrim education material to local schools.

Many colony members are involved in other lineage societies including Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Sons of the Republic of Texas, Colonial Dames and others. The colony joins with these other heritage groups to commemorate local and state history to promote the legacy of Mayflower Descendants in state and national historical events.

The San Antonio Colony currently has 51 active members with several prospective members with recently approved membership into the National Society. The colony is actively recruiting members to perpetuate the legacy of our Mayflower ancestors and advance the true story of the Pilgrims.

DFW Colony History

by Mike Nichols, Deputy Governor

The Dallas Colony was organized in 1946 under the leadership of Mrs. Sam Barnes (Dorothy Chandler) Dickinson, who served as the first Colony Governor.

In 1994, the name of the colony was changed to the Dallas-Fort Worth Colony. The colony has been a very active part of the state society since its origin, producing many state governors, officers, and committee chairman.

DFW Colony members who have served as State Governor are:

Mrs. Herbert C. Chandler,
Mr. Joseph B. Latimer,
Mr. Herschel W. Anderson,
Mrs. Horace J. Starkey,
Mr. Donald G. Pray, and
Ms. Linda Lee Wagg Hill.

Mr. Joseph B. Latimer also served as Governor General of the General Society. During his term of office a beautiful dining room table was donated from the Texas Society to the General Society.

Mrs. Edwin S. (Paralee Olive Keys) Hoot painted a group of pictures depicting the early life of the Pilgrims in America. These paintings were donated to the General Society and were placed in the dining room of the society headquarters in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

The First Slate of Officers, appointed by then State Governor Clarence M. Redfield consisted of:

Governor - Mrs. Dorothy Chandler Dickinson
Recording Secretary - Mrs. Mary Milam Chandler
Corresponding Secretary - Mrs. Mabel Heafter Spellman
Treasurer - Miss Eleanor B. Comstock
Historian - Mrs. Susannah Wilcox Harris
Captain - Mrs. Eva Smither Hawley
Education - Mrs. Maude Dawson Spears
Counselor - Mr. Herbert C. Chandler

The colony has an active education program, including visiting schools in Pilgrim attire and presenting an entertaining an informative program to the children.

The colony also ensures that selected local public libraries have the Mayflower Families volumes (the 'silver books') to assist the genealogy research of patrons and prospective members.

The DFW Colony, with over 100 members, is the largest in the Texas Society, and is actively seeking new members to continue preserving our Mayflower heritage and values.



Why Join The Mayflower Society?

by Mike Nichols, Publications Chair

Most of us have relatives and acquaintances who are Mayflower descendants, but have not yet chosen to join the Mayflower Society. Here are some thoughts about why they should join.

Perhaps it starts with "because I can". A lot of us are amazed to find that we are Mayflower descendants. Having the General Society certify our lineage gives us a lot of pride in our ancestry. There is a great deal of personal satisfaction in knowing that we are direct descendants of those who were among the earliest settlers of our country. Those settlers who gave rise to so much of our treasured American traditions. The Mayflower Society is one of the three largest, most respected and prestigious hereditary organizations in America.

There is also the familial satisfaction in finding new relatives, both current and past. Each of us is part of an extended family when we stand with the other descendants of our Mayflower Ancestor at our Compact Day celebrations. Joining the Mayflower Society is our way of connecting with our 'cousins' in that extended family.

As we learn more about the way our ancestors lived and the things they did, we develop a deeper appreciation of our American heritage and the values which our ancestors strove to establish and preserve. Preserving that heritage has become increasingly difficult as our national culture has changed. To quote President Ronald Reagan,..."Those of us who are over 35 or so years of age grew up in a different America. We were taught, very directly, what it means to be an American. And we absorbed, almost in the air, a love of country and an appreciation of it's institutions.....But now things have changed."

The Mayflower Society is committed to preserving that heritage. Belonging to the Society is one of the best ways one can start participating in that goal. If we do not take active steps to preserve our heritage, future generations may never know what it means to be an American.

News from the Colonies

Amarillo Colony

The arrangements for the Amarillo Compact Day luncheon are being finalized at this time.

Central Texas Colony

The Central Texas Colony will be celebrating Compact Day with a luncheon on Saturday, November 10th at 12:30 p.m. at the 620 Cafe & Bakery, located at 910 Round Rock Ave., Round Rock, Texas. The menu can be viewed at www.620cafeandbakery.com. Our topic will be an open discussion of the new book Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War by Nathaniel Philbrick. All Pilgrims, Indians, and guests are encouraged to participate. Bring your notes and share your thoughts on the book. What is your favorite passage or quote? What did you like or hate about the book? How does it relate to other books that you have read?

Our Colony wishes everyone good cheer and company during your Compact Day, Thanksgiving, and Forefather's Day remembrances

Corpus Christi Colony

The Corpus Christi Colony will hold its' Compact Day luncheon on Saturday, November 17, 2007, at the Corpus Christi Yacht Club in Corpus Christi.

DFW Colony

The DFW Colony will celebrate the signing of the Mayflower Compact at its' Compact Day luncheon on November 17, 2007, 11:30 am, at the Royal Oaks Country Club, located at 7915 Greenville Avenue in Dallas.

We are very pleased to announce that our speaker will be Dr. Estelle Owens, of Wayland University. She will be speaking on Colonial Child-rearing practices. She is a wealth of information on Colonial times, as well as a very entertaining speaker. Warning: this material may not be suitable for pre-adolescents.

Our Treasurer, Kent Hopkins, will be available for those members who choose to pay their 2008 dues at this time, which is highly recommended.

We also have a limited supply of Mayflower coffee mugs, which will be available for purchase.



News from the Colonies

Houston Colony

The next Houston colony meeting will be the Compact Luncheon. Sunday, November 18, 12:30 pm. at the Braeburn Oaks Country Club, 8181 Bissonnett, Houston, TX. Speaker: Dr. Christopher Hammons Department of History & Political Science Houston Baptist University Subject: The Impact of the Jamestown Colony on the Mayflower Compact Of Interest: With the celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the Jamestown Colony we will have an opportunity to see how the settlers at Jamestown might have impacted our Pilgrim fathers in their well designed document, The Mayflower Compact. Our own Pilgrim, Stephen Hopkins, had surely seen the difficulties of the Jamestown colonist in 1609, and with his strong views must have been encouraged by the decision to have the Compact written and signed by each man on the Mayflower. The officers are making plans for an interesting meeting that will include some fun surprises. Mark your calendar for Nov. 18th! A child's plate will be offered. Invitations will be mailed out early, so watch your mail box. More information will be forth coming.

San Antonio Colony

The San Antonio Colony will hold its fall meeting on September 22, 2007. The members will welcome Lisa Pennington and David Furlow visiting from the Houston Colony to provide a presentation on Isaac Allerton. Governor Suzanne Scott will report on State Governor Bart Henson's visit to San Antonio in June and will discuss the agenda for the upcoming gathering of colony governors from around the state to be held in San Antonio on Oct. 6th. Regular business reports will be provided. The Compact Day meeting of the colony will be held on November 17th at Earl Abel's Restaurant (1201 Austin Highway) beginning at 11 a.m. The colony's education committee will share the presentation they give to area school children. Members will be encouraged to invite their families to the meeting to commemorate Compact Day.

Tyler Colony

The Tyler Colony, Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants reports that they had a good business meeting May 19, 2007 at which time the colony voted to write their own bylaws. Amy Glenn was asked to chair the committee and Kevin McCall and Madeline Alworth will be committee members.

We now have 23 members, 1 junior member and several prospects. The colony has a fund raising project and two flags, the U.S. and Texas flags.

Our Education Chairman, Madeline Alworth, is gearing up to present some educational programs in several schools in the Tyler area. Governor Betty Corcoran and Deputy Governor Carolyn McCall presented Mayflower Descendants in the State of Texas and Their Lineages, Volume III and Volume IV to the genealogical section of the Lindale Library, Lindale, Texas. The presentation was made on Wednesday, September 12, 2007 and the library director, Carrie Custer, received the books and was grateful to get them.

Plans are under way for Compact Day luncheon on November 10th and Dr. Amy Glenn will be our speaker.

Waco Colony

The Colony will meet on Saturday, Nov 17th at the Hamilton House, 1521 Austin Avenue at 11:30 for their Compact meeting. Governor, Ann Harder will officiate. Bill Buckner, Head Librarian, Genealogy Dept of the Waco/Mclennan County Library will be the guest speaker.

Ann attended the Prisoners of War Memorial in Waco on Sun Sep 16 and Ann was asked to sing the National Anthem.

Jerrie Geisler and Carol Scarborough will be in the middle of carrying on the traditional November Pilgrim programs to the area schools and distributing books and videos.

The next meeting will be in May.

**New Members**

We are happy to greet these new members since the Summer 2007 Newsletter.

GS Numb	TX Numb	Name	City	Ancestor
77530	2542	Dr Lacy Harris Hunt II, PhD	Austin	William Brewster
77560	2543	Beverly Ann Wilson	Bullard	John Alden
77561	2544	Laura Elizabeth Boone	Bullard	John Alden
77569	2545	James Walker McKellar	Dallas	William Brewster
77605	2546	Caryn Jeanne Powell	Houston	John Howland
77606	2547	Merrill Mason McClure	Dallas	Stephen Hopkins
77607	2548	Leah Nicole Deason *	Nacogdoches	William Bradford
77608	2549	Ben Warren Deason *	Nacogdoches	William Bradford
77899	2550	Mary Jane Murphy Deshon Teran	Houston	William Brewster
77900	2551	Randal Steven McKellar	Argyle	William Brewster
77901	2552	Elizabeth Rose McKellar Elliot	Houston	William Brewster
79946	2553	Sally Anne Slaughter *	Austin	William White
78912	2555	Timothy Daniel Durham	Victoria	William Brewster
78913	2556	Brian Jeffrey Durham	Victoria	William Brewster
78914	2557	Christina Jane Lister	Jacksonville	William Bradford
78915	2558	Dalma Sue Bass Camplen	Bergheim	John Alden

* Junior to Adult members

Junior Members

The Texas Society is happy to have these new Junior Members since the Summer 2007 Newsletter.

JR 983	Andrew Kenneth Price	Stephen Hopkins
JR 984	Holly Ann Griffin	John Alden
JR 985	Hunter Patrick Griffin	John Alden
JR 986	Colby Reid Evans	William Bradford
JR 987	Emily Elizabeth Evans	William Bradford

**Supplementals**

The following members have established additional Mayflower ancestor lines since the Summer 2007 Newsletter

James William Griffith, Jr.

Stephen Hopkins

Kevin Michael Mammainga

Francis Eaton

Transfers In

The Texas Society is happy to welcome these members who have transferred in from other states since the Summer 2007 Newsletter.

73126

2554 Laurel Lee Sawyer Kinman

Royse City

Henry Samson, from California

In Memoriam

The Texas Society is blessed to have known these members who will be memorialized at the Memorial Service in Corpus Christi.

73079	2311	Margaret Wells Middlebrook	Waco Colony	21 June, 2007
49955	1289	Paralee Keys Hoot	DFW Colony	6 Jul, 2007
60819	1827	Virginia Young Hill **		7 July, 2007
44937	1166	Ruth Zelma Love **		2 Apr, 2007
61224	1841	Vinita Van Hemert	DFW Colony	22 August, 2007
61104	1835	Howard Skelton	Tyler Colony	15 August, 2007
50503	1304	Jonathan Cornelius Pray	DFW Colony	10 September, 2007

**Not active members at time of death

**2008 Annual Meeting**

April 4, 2008—Corpus Christi

The next annual meeting will be hosted by the Corpus Christi Colony commencing on April 4, 2008.

It will be at:

Holiday Inn Emerald Beach
1102 S. Shoreline
Corpus Christi, TX
(361) 883-5731.

The Hotel is right on the beach in the middle of town. Previous attendees will recall that we have met there before. We have a block of rooms at \$89.00 per day. Make your reservations now!



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