



Mayflower Chronicles
Albany Colony
Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York
Spring Luncheon Meeting
May 2, 2026—12:00-3:30
Albany Country Club, 300 Wormer Road, Voorheesville, NY



“The Pilgrims didn’t have any experience when they landed here. Hell, if experience was that important, we’d never have anybody walking on the moon.” *Doug Rader*

Colony Governor’s Message for May 2, 2026

Our May 2nd luncheon/meeting will be held at the Albany Country Club
300 Wormer Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186 — 12:00-3:30 pm

The 250th Anniversary of the Declaration for Independence is July 4, 2026. Prior to this, the Battles of Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill occurred in 1775 along with the Siege of Boston. The Siege of Boston began on April 19 after the Revolutionary War’s first battles at Lexington and Concord. The Continental Congress formed the Continental Army from the militias involved in the fighting and appointed George Washington as Commander in Chief. In June 1775, the British seized Bunker Hill and Breed’s Hill after heavy casualties on both sides, but their gains were insufficient to break the Continental Army’s encirclement. After this, the Americans laid siege to Boston with no major battles, just occasional raids, minor skirmishes and sniper fire.

In November 1775, General Washington sent Henry Knox on a mission to bring the heavy artillery from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston which he did in January 1776. This artillery fortified Dorchester Heights overlooking Boston Harbor. British commander William Howe saw his position as indefensible and withdrew his forces from Boston to Halifax, Nova Scotia, on March 17, 1776.

Our Revolutionary War ancestors who were Mayflower descendants supported the cause of liberty and the establishment of the United States. Were any at the Siege of Boston?

Our May 2nd luncheon/meeting presentation will be: **“Revisit the Revolution, the NYS Parks and the 250th Anniversary”** by Cordell Reaves, Coordinator, Community Affairs, or the Revolutionary War Project Manager, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, Division for Historic Preservation.

Thanks to Sylvia Magin for creating this issue of our Mayflower Chronicles and to Jim Pratt for keeping up-to-date the Albany Colony website <https://www.nyacsmd.org> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NYACSMD>.

I look forward to seeing each of you at Albany Country Club on May 2nd.

Our next meetings:

November 7, 2026 and
May 1, 2027



Dave Morton

Colony Governor

Colony Officers
 Colony Governor—
 David W. Morton, Ed.D
 1st Dep. Col. Gov.—
 Douglass (Tim) Mabee
 2nd Dep. Col. Gov.—
 David A. Young
 Secretary—
 Sandra A. Zerrillo
 Treasurer—
 Dianne Rizzo
 Asst. Treasurer—
 David A. Young
 Co-Captain—
 Douglass (Tim) Mabee
 Co-Captain and Elder—
 Priscilla S. Davis
 Historian and Archivist—
 Paul S. Johnson

Webmaster—James A. Pratt
 Albany Colony websites:
<https://www.nyacsmd.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/>

Chronicles Editor—
 Sylvia Story Magin
 Email: SylviaSMagin@aol.com
 (Spring 2026 – My 20th issue!)



If you don't have an Albany Colony Mayflower lapel pin, it isn't too late. Send your check, now only \$25.00, which includes sales tax and postage, payable to "Albany Colony SOMD" to Colony Co-Captain Tim Mabee, 17 Kilarney Court, Saratoga Springs, NY 12856-7501, and he will send you this handsome little pin to proudly wear. It's only three inches long! It's hard to read the wording in this picture but it says, "Society of Mayflower Descendants—Albany Colony New York."

Not a Member?

With over 100,000 approved members to date, we may already have the documentation you need to be eligible for membership with The Mayflower Society. Just fill out our Mayflower Lineage Match form ... for a detailed report from our files.

You may also search for your ancestors using the Silver Books or by watching our Genealogy Webinars for tips on how to research your Mayflower Lineage.

Another useful resource for finding evidence of lineage is the Patriots to Passenger project which connects Revolutionary War patriots with descendants of the *Mayflower* pilgrims.

GSMD Website

Historian's Report
 Albany Colony Membership Totals as of February 2026
 Regular Members 254, Life Members 15, Total Membership 269
 New Members: Welcome "Aboard!"

ADDITIONS:

New Members (3)

<u>Name</u>	<u>NY Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
Paul S. Curtis	6956	10/25/2025	John Howland
Robert L. Hosley	6960	10/25/2025	William Bradford
William C. Mullen	6964	10/25/2025	John Alden

Reinstated (1):
 John Wesley Eisenhower

Transfers In (4):
 Liana Moss 5730
 Tricia Neill 6110
 Sally Holway 6534
 Sarah Kilbourne 5129

TERMINATIONS (2)

Transfers Out (2):
 John Wesley Eisenhower (to Virginia)
 Pamela Dean Smith Piraino (to South Carolina)

Deaths
 William Sanford Gay—January 6, 2026 (see Fall 2025 report)

Paul S. Johnson, Historian

"But the closer we study their lives, and the better we know their deeds, the more profound is our admiration and the greater our reverence for the Pilgrim fathers.

"Between the drafting of their immortal charter of liberty in the cabin of the Mayflower and the fruition of their principles in the power and majesty of the republic of the United States of to-day is but a span in the records of the world, and yet it is the most important and beneficent chapter in history."

Chauncey Depew

Minutes of the November 1, 2025, Compact Day Luncheon Meeting

The Fall Compact Day Meeting of the Albany Colony, SOMD, was held at the Albany Country Club, 300 Wormer Road, Voorheesville, New York on Saturday, November 1st. The meeting was called to order by Colony Gov. David W. Morton at 12:30 p.m. The Invocation was given by Elder Priscilla Davis, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America led by 2nd Colony Deputy Gov. David Young. The Mayflower Compact was read by 2nd Colony Deputy Gov. David Young.

Note that a quorum was present. A motion was made by Bob Bowles and seconded to ratify the actions of our officers, committees and our society since our last regular meeting that was held on May 3, 2025. **The motion was approved.**

Officers present were introduced by Colony Gov. Morton: 2nd Deputy Colony Gov. David Young; Secretary Sandra A. Zerrillo; Treasurer Dianne Rizzo; Co-Captain & Elder Priscilla Davis. Gov. Morton also introduced Alexis Morledge Executive Director of the Mayflower Society who was visiting from New York City.

New members: No new members were present. However, a new transfer from the Illinois Colony, Mary Fielding-McClenahan was present. **Self-introductions** by members and guests included name, location, and ancestors. Members present - 37 & guests - 21 = 58. **Secretary's Report:** Minutes from May 3, 2025, meeting were printed in the Chronicles. The minutes were filed printed. **Treasurer's Report:** Presented by Treasurer Rizzo. The report was filed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Historian: The Historian's Report written by Paul S. Johnson was printed in the November 2025 issue of the Chronicles. The membership counts as of August 31, 2025, are: 249 Regular Members and 15 Life Members for a total of 264. The report was filed.

Chronicles: Colony Gov. Morton thanked Editor Sylvia Magin for her outstanding dedication to publishing the issues of the *Chronicles*.

Website: Colony Gov. Morton thanked Honorary Member & Colony Webmaster Jim Pratt for his work in maintaining the Albany Colony website and face book page. These are members only sites, so please contact Jim if you wish to gain access.

Roll Call of Ancestors: (Listed below the Minutes Continued.)

Longevity Certificates – Colony Secretary Zerrillo presented a 25-year certificate to Sylvia Magin and a 35-year certificate to the family of Past Elder Arthur F. Young, Jr., 2nd Colony Deputy Governor Young, who was accompanied by Amanda Vincent and his mother, Ann Young, accepted the certificate.

Old Business: There was no Old Business.

New Business: Colony Governor Morton announced an Executive Committee Decision that had been adopted by the Executive Board on October 29, 2025.

Albany Colony, Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York, will pay for the deposit required by establishments (e.g., country clubs or restaurants) to reserve dates and facilities' usage through the Albany Colony Trustco checking account. The expense of this deposit will not be added to the price of individual member luncheons but will be paid separately through the treasury as it covers the usage of the facility and reserving the dates of luncheon meetings.

Roll Call of Ancestors: The customary Roll Call to determine how many descendants of each Pilgrim ancestor were present at the meeting took place at this point, and the results are set forth following the Minutes.

Program:

"The Arrogance of Empire: How British Hubris led to defeat in the American Revolution" presented by Gregory J. Magin, William Bradford descendant and son of *Chronicles* Editor Sylvia S. Magin.

Greg gave a fascinating presentation about how the arrogance of the British contributed to the defeat of the British Empire during the American Revolution. He pointed out how their disregard for the colonists and their unwillingness to believe that "a rag tag army" could possibly defeat them, which led to several tactical errors by General Burgoyne at the Battles of Saratoga and General Cornwallis during the Siege of Yorktown, which ultimately ended the war.

Greg also spoke about what he called "hinges of fate" that ultimately brought two loyal British citizens into the ranks of the Patriots.

The first was Benjamin Franklin, who for a significant portion of his life was a loyal British subject, working as colonial administrator and even a postal official for the monarchy. Events like the Stamp Act of 1765 began to change his mind. The growing discontent with British control influenced his views, and he gradually shifted from defending the British policy to supporting the colonial cause. A crucial turning point was his 1774 appearance before the Privy Council, where he was publicly humiliated.

Minutes (Continued)

After this event, he became fully committed to the cause for American Independence.

The second was George Washington.

Washington's military career began in earnest during the French and Indian War. In 1755, Washington served as an aide to British General Braddock. Washington knew the terrain and offered tactical suggestions to Braddock on how to fight, but Braddock dismissed Washington's plan. Washington survived the disastrous Battle of Monongahela, helping to organize a successful retreat after General Braddock was killed. Washington's ultimate goal was to become a high-ranking British Officer, but he needed an entry into that society. He was also a military tactician and felt his skills could help redesign how the British fought during battles. He requested a meeting with General Loudon, someone who could open the doors for Washington to move up in the British Ranks. Loudon dismissed everything that Washington had to say during this meeting and basically told him he would not support his advancement or give him his own commission. Loudon closed the door on Washington's dream of moving up in the British ranks. A disheartened Washington eventually returned to Mt. Vernon, where he stayed until he answered the call to fight for independence.

At the conclusion of the program, Colony Gov. Morton thanked Jim Pratt for his technical support making this presentation possible and for offering to video the program so it can be uploaded to the Colony Website.

Benediction was given by Elder Priscilla Davis. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Next Meetings: – May 2, 2026 & November 7, 2026

Roll Call of Ancestors

John Alden & wife Priscilla Mullins Alden - 7

Isaac Allerton & wife Mary Norris Allerton & children

John Billington & wife Elinor & sons Joh & Francis—1

Stephen Hopkins & wife Elizabeth Fisher Hopkins
& children Constance & Giles— 4

William Bradford & wife Dorothy May Bradford—3

William Brewster & wife Mary & children Love &
Wrestling—5

Peter Brown—0

James Chilton & wife Susanna & daughter Mary—1

Francis Cooke & son John—4

Edward Doty—1

Francis Eaton & wife Sarah & son Samuel— 1

Moses Fletcher—0

Edward & wife & son Samuel—1

Samuel Fuller—0

Stephen Hopkins & wife Elizabeth Fisher Hopkins &
Children Constance & Giles—4

John Howland & wife Elizabeth Tilley Howland—5'-

Richard More—0

William Mullins & wife Alice & children Priscilla and Joseph—4

Degory Priest—1

Thomas Rogers & son Joseph—1

Henry Samson—0

George Soule—2

Miles Standish—0

John Tilley & wife Joan Hurst Tilley & daughter Elizabeth—3

Richard Warren—4

William White and wife Susanna Jackson White & sons
Resolved and Peregrine - 5

Edward Winslow (and wife Elizabeth Barker Winslow) - 0
Bartholomew, Remember, Mary, John - 2

**John Alden & wife Priscilla Mullins Alden's
descendants had the most representation
at our Luncheon Meeting—7**

Sandra A. Zervillo, Secretary

"In 1741, the ninety-five-year-old Thomas Faunce asked to be carried in a litter to the Plymouth waterfront. Faunce had heard that a pier was about to be built over an undistinguished rock at the tide line near Town Brook.

"With tears in his eyes, Faunce proclaimed that he had been told by his father, who had arrived in Plymouth in 1623, that the boulder was where the Pilgrims had first landed. Thus was born the legend of Plymouth Rock."

Nathaniel Philbrick





Our Fall 2025 Luncheon Meeting was held at the Albany Country Club in Voorheesville



The Presentation of Membership Longevity Certificates usually takes place at our Spring Luncheon Meeting but was postponed this year, and then only two of the eleven recipients for 2025 were present or were represented at the Fall Luncheon Meeting: the late Art Young, who died in January, 2025, for 35 years (his family representatives (center, above) and your Chronicles Editor, for 25 years. The remaining certificates were then mailed to the other honorees.





Many thanks to our excellent Colony WebMaster, Jim Pratt, for several of these photos and for the fine videos he took of the two presentations. What a guy!



“There is something profoundly satisfying about sharing a meal. Eating together, breaking bread together, is one of the oldest and most fundamentally unifying of human experiences.”

Barbara Colarusso





There were two highlights of our Fall gathering: **Alexis Morledge**, Executive Director of New York Colony, was warmly greeted and welcomed into our midst for the first time and favored us with a fine talk. Then our scheduled program for the day was presented by **Gregory J. Magin**, son of your *Chronicles* Editor and a lifetime student of history. He spoke about *"The Arrogance of Empire: How British Hubris Led to Defeat in the American Revolution,"* in honor of the upcoming milestone 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War; a intriguing "take" on some of the familiar aspects of the events that changed our country's history.



"A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do... We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about."

Woodrow Wilson

The Midnight Ride of William Dawes

"I am a wandering, bitter shade— Never of me was a hero made;

Poets have never sung my praise— Nobody crowned my brow with bays,

And if you ask me the fatal cause— I answer only, 'My name was Dawes.'

'Tis all very well for the children to hear— Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere;

But why should my name be quite forgot— Who rose as boldly and well, God wot?

Why should I ask? The reason is clear—My name was Dawes and his Revere.

When the lights from the old North Church flashed out— Paul Revere was waiting about,

But I was already on my way— The shadows of night felt cold and gray

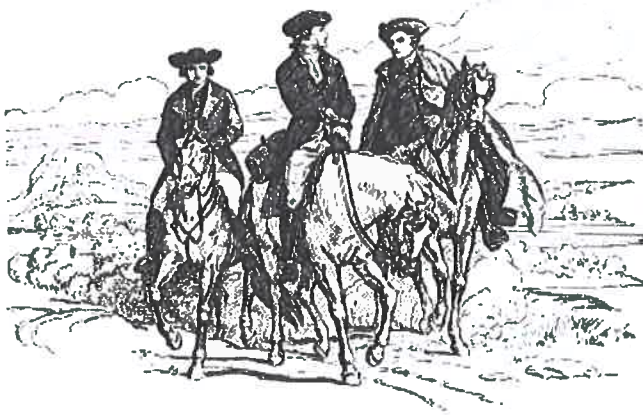
As I rode with never a break or pause— But what was the use, when my name was Dawes?

History rings with his silvery name— Closed to me are the portals of fame.

Had he been Dawes and I Revere— No one had heard of him, I fear.

No one has heard of me because— He was Revere and I was Dawes."

Helen F. Moore, Century Magazine, 1896



As we continue to acknowledge and celebrate the milestone 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, it seems appropriate to direct our applause and shine the light of recognition upon William Dawes. His patriotic activities certainly matched and apparently exceeded those of Paul Revere, but whose name and reputation are unfamiliar to most people, primarily thanks to William Wordsworth's familiar poem "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere."

Kudos to Helen F. Moore for the above poem about Mr. Dawes that she wrote so long ago; he certainly deserved wider attention and acclaim for his heroic endeavors, and presenting it here now is one small way to bring attention to this richly deserving but long-overlooked American Patriot.

"William Dawes Jr. (April 6, 1745 - February 25, 1799) was an American soldier, and was one of several men who, in April 1775, alerted minutemen in Massachusetts of the approach of British regulars prior to the Battles of Lexington and Concord at the outset of the American Revolution."¹ Dawes' role in this action - as well of that of Samuel Prescott - has long been overshadowed by the attention given to Paul Revere."

Wikipedia

"William Dawes is the usually forgotten shoe maker who rode with P.R. on the night of April 18, 1775 to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock that the British were coming to arrest them. Dawes took the longer land route to Lexington arriving to destination half an hour later.

"Dawes was also politically active before the revolution, but he did not go beyond the call of duty the night of the ride. Meanwhile Revere returned to Lexington to get documents forgotten by Hancock and alerted the population that the red-coats were coming."

paul-revere-heritage.com

"On the night of April 18, 1775, Dawes, along with Revere and Samuel Prescott, rode to warn the colonial militias of the approaching British troops. While not as widely remembered as Revere, Dawes was also a member of the Sons of Liberty and was known for his opposition to British taxation policies.

americanhistorycentral.com

"While Revere took the shorter path, "by sea," Dawes took the longer, more dangerous route, "by land." The two men reconvened in Lexington, warned John Hancock and Samuel Adams about the British, and set out to Concord together."

allthatsinteresting.com

"William and Mehitable Dawes would have three children: two sons and a daughter. His wife died in 1793, and six years later, on Feb 25, 1799, Dawes passed away in Marlborough, Massachusetts. His great-great-great-grandson Charles Gates Dawes would become Vice President of the United States during Calvin Coolidge's Presidential term."

thehistoryjunkie.com

“Family Societies are organizations usually run by *Mayflower* descendants and focused on particular Pilgrim families and their lineage. Many descendants like to get involved with the family society devoted to their *Mayflower* ancestor in addition to joining the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. As a member of the Mayflower Society, you can typically join one of the Family Societies endorsed by the General Society with ease.”

GSMD Website

Mayflower Pilgrim Family Societies

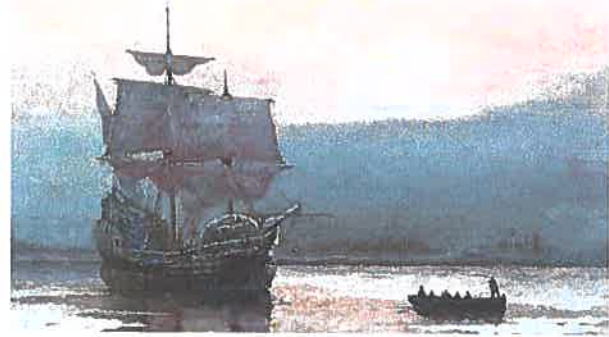
Alden Kindred of America
 Pilgrim Isaac Allerton Society
 Billington Family Society
 The Elder William Brewster Society
 Pilgrim Peter Brown Society
 Pilgrim Francis Cooke Society
 Delano Kindred
 Pilgrim Edward Doty Society
 The Fuller Society
 Pilgrim Hopkins Heritage Society
 The Pilgrim John Howland Society
 Nickerson Family Association
 Thomas Rogers Society
 Pilgrim Henry Samson Kindred
 Soule Kindred in America
 Society of Myles Standish Descendants, Inc.
 The Warren Cousins
 The Pilgrim William White Society
 Winslow Heritage Society
 Governor William Bradford Compact
 The Eaton Families Association

GSMD Website

“The Romantic Story of the Mayflower Pilgrims”

“When the *Mayflower* left them to return home in the spring, the settlers must have felt they were desolate indeed, for their nearest civilised neighbours were five hundred miles to the north and south of them, the French at Nova Scotia and the English in Virginia. Seven months later, in November, came the *Fortune*, bringing thirty-five new emigrants, including William Brewster's eldest son; John Winslow, a brother of Edward; and Robert Cushman, who had turned back the year before at Old Plymouth.”

A. C. Addison



You can tune in any time on line to see and listen to a video of the talk by Gregory Magin at our 2025 Fall Compact Day Luncheon Meeting on *Why the British lost the American Revolutionary War*; created by our WebMaster Jim Pratt. Just type in “nyacsm.org,” select “About Us”, and click on “Videos.”

Some Famous Mayflower Descendants – Which Ones are Your Cousins?

John Alden: President John Quincy Adams, Marilyn Monroe, Orson Welles, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Isaac Allerton: Presidents Zachary Taylor and Franklin D. Roosevelt
John Billington: President James A. Garfield
William Bradford: Noah Webster, Clint Eastwood, Christopher Reeve, George Eastman, George McClellan
William Brewster: President Zachary Taylor, Bing Crosby
Peter Browne: Dick Van Dyke
Francis Cooke: Presidents George W. Bush & Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dick Van Dyke, Richard Gere, Anna Mary “Grandma” Moses
George Cooke: Richard Gere
Francis Eaton: Richard Gere
Samuel Fuller: Richard Gere
John Howland: Presidents George W. Bush and Franklin D. Roosevelt, Alec Baldwin, Humphrey Bogart, Dr. Benjamin Spock
Degory Priest: President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Richard Gere
Henry Samson: President George W. Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush
George Soule: Dick Van Dyke, Richard Gere, Gene Roddenberry
Myles Standish: Vice President Dan Quayle, Dick Van Dyke
Elizabeth Tilley: Ralph Waldo Emerson
Richard Warren: President/General Ulysses S. Grant, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Richard Gere, Alan B. Shepard, Jr.

GSMD website



Congratulations on your Membership Longevity as of 2026!

Forty-Five Years (1981)

Richard H. Avery, Constable, NY

Forty Years (1986)

None this year

Thirty-Five Years (1991)

Harriet P. Berard, Warnerville, NY

Susan Y. McCormick, Wynantskill, NY

Elizabeth Y. Waidelich, Herriman, UT

Hon. David A. Young, Ravena, NY

Thirty Years (1996)

Lynne N. Byron, Mt. Tremper, NY

Melissa B. Conniff, Poughkeepsie, NY

Anne Jones Hall, Danby VT

Richard C. Saunders, Jr., Glens Falls, NY

Twenty-Five Years (2001)

Elizabeth Saunders Strader, Glens Falls, NY

Donna P. Reiley, Chatham, NY

Richard C. Saunders, Glens Falls, NY

Twenty Years (2006)

J. Trent Cox, Troy, NY

Wesley I. Hale, Mechanicville, NY

Delia L. Israelian, Catskill, NY

Marilyn L. Luhmann, Clintondale, NY

Joyce T. Musco, Cohoes, NY

Dione R. Ramsdill, Saratoga Springs, NY

Laurence E. Van Brunt, Ghent, NY

June H. Walker, Chaumont, NY

"Finding the path our ancestors walked is not always easy, but the rewards of the journey make the effort worthwhile."

Jayne McGarvey

Something for Members to Consider

There has never been a better time to be a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS). With a growing collection of 1.4 BILLION names on AmericanAncestors.org, original scholarship and unique educational resources; NEHGS has the tools and expertise you need to uncover your family's unique story. The Mayflower Society is pleased to partner with NEHGS to offer you special discounted rates on NEHGS membership.

As a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, you're entitled to an exclusive 30% discount on new memberships to American Ancestors and 10% off renewals.

If you are joining NEHGS for the first time, you will also receive a free, 15-minute consultation with a genealogist to help you get started.

Mayflower Society Members Receive:

- Full access to over 1.4 BILLION names on AmericanAncestors.org
- Subscriptions to the NEHGS quarterly magazine, American Ancestors, and The Register - The Journal of American Genealogy
- Discount on NEHGS publications and services
- Free access to the NEHGS Boston research Library

Access to the most exclusive and essential research materials and assistance in family history.

GSMD website



Mayflower Chronicles

Albany Colony

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York

Spring Luncheon Meeting

May 2, 2026—Albany Country Club

300 Wormer Road, Voorheesville, NY

Social Time (cash bar) 12:00 Noon—Lunch & Meeting 12:30



“The world’s favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May.” *Edwin Way Teale*

Please join us, and your guests are always welcome!

BUFFET LUNCHEON OPTIONS:

Garden Salad (Balsamic, Italian, Ranch dressings included), Rolls and Butter

Roast Pork Loin (with apple demi-glace) - Pasta a la Vodka

Mashed Potatoes - Fresh Vegetables du jour

New York Cheesecake (with mixed berry sauce)

Coffee, DeCaff, Tea Station

~

Our May 2nd luncheon/meeting presentation will be:

“Revisit the Revolution, the NYS Parks and the 250th Anniversary”

by Cordell Reaves, Coordinator, Community Affairs, or the Revolutionary War Project Manager,

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation,

Division for Historic Preservation.

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Please make your check for \$48.00 per person (includes gratuity) payable to

“Albany Colony SOMD” and mail it with the reservation blank below to:

Dianne Rizzo, PO Box 533, Preston Hollow, NY 12469-0533 (518-222-3029)

Phone: (518-222-3029) - Email: dlriz127@gmail.com

“The beauty of a joyful gathering lies in the bonds that are strengthened and the memories that are created.” *(Unknown)*

Please reserve _____ places for me at the May 2nd Luncheon Meeting:

(Please list below the names of persons attending)

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed. Signed _____

I cannot attend but it will be my pleasure to donate to the Albany Colony \$ _____

We look forward to seeing you there!

