

# The Spy Glass



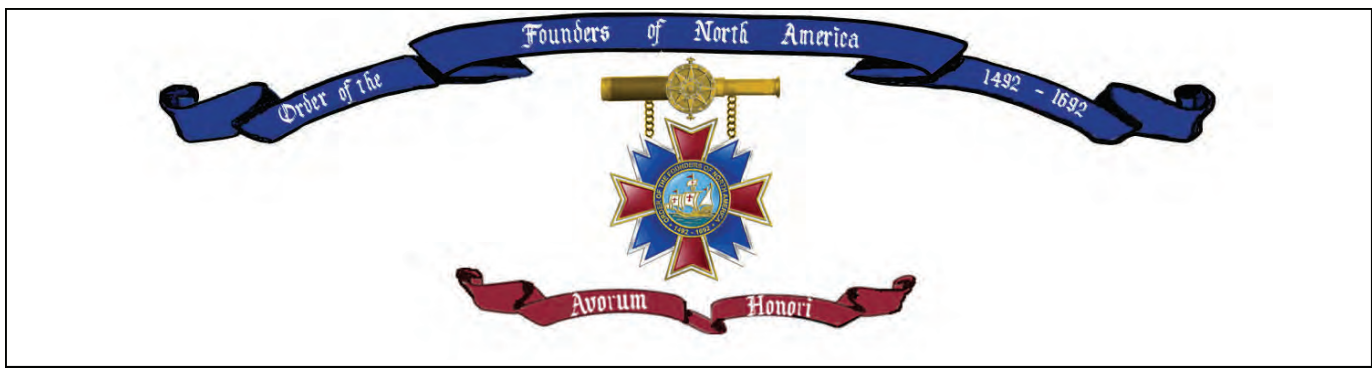
Newsletter of The Order of the Founders of North America—1492-1692  
Volume 1, Issue 3, Spring 2013

## We Be Three Poor Mariners

*This little ditty was popular since in the days of King Henry VIII. One wonders if the poor souls sailing to America on those tiny little ships heard this song during their journey. What a thought.*

*We be three poor mariners  
Newly come from the seas;  
We spend our lives in jeopardy  
While others live at ease.  
Come let us dance the round,  
A round, a round  
Come let us dance the round,  
A round, a round  
And he that is a bully boy  
Come pledge me on this ground,  
A ground, a ground.*

*We care not for these martial men  
That do our states disdain;  
But we care for those merchant men  
Who do our states maintain.  
To them we dance this round,  
A round, a round  
To them we dance the round,  
A round, a round  
And he that is a bully boy  
Come pledge me on this ground,  
A ground, a ground.*



## A Message from the Grand Viscount General



Dear fellow Founders,

**State of the Order:** At press time we have 79 approved charter members. At the annual meeting we will vote on the cut-off date for Charter membership. Sep. 1, 2013, has been suggested as it follows the annual conventions of most other lineage societies.

Our 1/6 page ad in the *SAR Magazine* paid off. We have placed ads in the three Colonial Dames groups' publications, and plan to run it the *DAR magazine*. This is excellent, as we had a goal of 100 by Dec. 31, 2013.

We are on Sound Financial Footing. A financial report will be presented at the annual meeting. In 2012, we were admitted to full membership of *The Heritage Societies of the US*.

**Annual Meeting:** In this issue of the *Spy Glass* is your Invitation to the Annual Meeting and the Registration Form (page 6). Also included is a Proxy form for those members who will be unable to attend (page 17.) **Please sign either the Registration Form and return it as soon as possible so that we may have an accurate account of attendees.**

At the meeting, in addition to the Election and Induction of Officers, and determining the cut-off date for charter members, we will consider the adoption of the Proposed By-Law amendments, and discuss items of other Business. Please provide any suggested topics for inclusion by Apr. 1, when the agenda will be prepared.

**Membership Regalia:** I am disappointed to report that although our OFNA medals were delivered on Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>, they were not up to our expectations, so they were returned. There is a slight chance they might be available for the annual meeting. Stay tuned. The good news is that the Clutch back **OFNA Blazer Patches** are in stock (copy page 16). The cost is \$25.00 + postage and handling. They can be ordered from Jack Manning at [jack@manning.net](mailto:jack@manning.net).

**Tour of Spain update:** DVG Steve Renouf and John Berik of Magic Travels have for months been working on a few minor changes in our itinerary that saves both time and money. Details of the current itinerary, information and sign up are on the website. The reservation form is on page 18 of this issue. Notice that there is a **discount** for signing up early.

John Berik and his company planned both the 1997 SAR and 2010 tours to Spain; the 2012 SAR trip to Germany; and is also working on a SAR trip to Ireland for 2014. They do a great job.

Several of us are planning to leave early and visit the Island of Majorca for a few days before the tour. If you are interested, please contact Steve Renouf. If we have enough we can obtain better rates.

### Executive Committee

**Grand Viscount General**  
Judge Edward F. Butler

**Deputy Viscount General - Eastern USA**  
Lindsey Cook Brock

**Deputy Viscount General – Western USA**  
Steve Renouf

**Deputy Viscount General - Europe**  
Duke of Mecklenburg Borwin

**Abogado General**  
David N. Appleby

**Secretariat General**  
Barbara A. Stevens

**Exchequer General, Acting**  
Thomas Jackson

**Mareschal General**  
Peter Baron

**Co-Genealogista General**  
Mike Radcliff

**Co-Genealogista General**  
Gerald Irion

**Registrar General**  
Martha Gee Barnhart

**Adjutant General**  
Mark C. Anthony

**Emissary General**  
Robert Towns

**Vicar General**  
Rt. Rev Louis V Carlson

## Index of Issue Contents



Calendar of Events..... 3  
Spanish Trip.....7, 18



Member Insignia  
& Medals.....4, 16



Membership  
Members—Recently  
Approved...10-11



Meetings.....4, 5, 8, 17



Officers  
Nominating Committee  
Report .....6

Honorary Members  
Mrs. Eleanor Niebell and Mr.  
Lloyd Bockstruck.....9



Historical Articles  
The Mayflower  
Compact.....12  
Don Juan Ponce de Leon of  
the Discovery of  
Florida.....13-15

Editor's Note .....16

## Calendar of Events

**Apr 11, 2013**

Organization meeting of California OFNA Society, in Ventura, CA, in Conjunction with California SAR Society

**Apr. 15, 2013**

Annual Meeting at the Washington Club, Washington, D.C.

**Jul. 5, 2013**

Meeting in Kansas City, Mo in conjunction with SAR Congress

**Aug. 10, 2013**

Meeting in conjunction with the SAR Atlantic Middle States Conference. Venue to be announced

**Sep. 27, 2013**

Meeting in Louisville, KY in conjunction with SAR Leadership

**Oct. 1-19, 2013**

Oct. 1-4, 2013: OFNA Tour of Spain Pre Tour Excursion to the Isle of Majorca

Oct. 4- 15, 2013: OFNA Tour of Spain (members - \$250.00 discount)

Oct. 15-19, 2013 OFNA Tour of Spain Post Tour Excursion to Santiago de Compostella, Spain

**Oct. 25, 2013**

OFNA Genealogy / History Seminar & book fair in San Antonio, TX with Private Twilight Tour of the Alamo and Texas Bar-b-que on the Alamo lawn.

**Oct. 26, 2013**

Mid year meeting of OFNA in conjunction with the Texas Heritage Societies annual meeting, San Antonio, TX

**Dec. 31, 2013**

Cut-off date to become a Charter Member

## Plans for Annual Meeting Announced

The first annual meeting of the **Order of the Founders of North America 1492-1692 (OFNA)** will be held in Washington, D.C. on Monday April 15, 2013 at the historic Washington Club. Arrangements have been made to jointly meet with both the Hereditary **Order of the Descendants of Loyalists and Patriots of the American Revolution** and **The National Order of the Blue and Gray**.

Current plans are for OFNA to conduct its business meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Washington Club at 5:00 p.m. At that time the report of the nominating committee will be announced, and officers for the ensuing year elected. Up to date information about the group tour of Spain in October will be discussed. A registration form for this event is contained in this issue as is the proxy form. Please see the discussion in the GVG's message on page 2.

A joint cocktail reception is slated to start at 6:00 p.m. with a joint steak dinner at 7:00 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$100, which includes a nice favor for each attendee. Business attire is required.

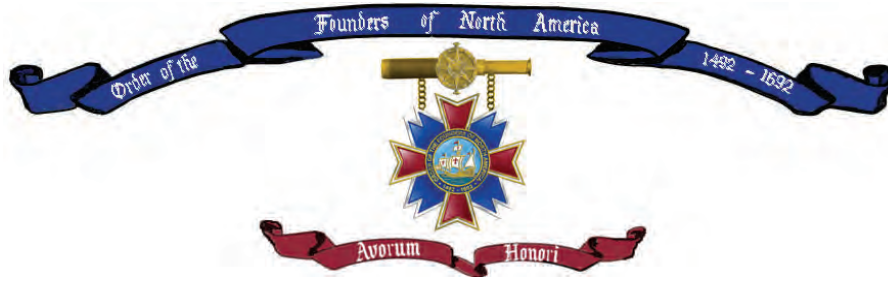
For those planning to attend, it has been noted that the hotel reservations are no longer available at the host hotel. This date and place is in conjunction with annual meetings of member groups of the **Hereditary Society Community of the United States of America**. Dates, times and locations of meetings of the other groups are listed on their web site at [www.hereditary.us/meetings.htm](http://www.hereditary.us/meetings.htm).

## Membership Insignia



Our Grand Viscount General Ed Butler has been working with City Pride, Ltd, of Pennsylvania to commission production of the dies and both a regular and miniature version of the medal. The first production run of the medals did not meet expectations and GVG Butler is working with City Pride to correct the issues.

It is hoped that a new production run of the medals will be available by the Annual Meeting of the OFNA in April. Members will receive an e-mail update when the medals become available. At that time an order form will be distributed by e-mail and placed on the website.



# Order of the Founders of North America 1492-1692

General Assembly & Dinner  
Monday, April 15, 2013

Second Floor  
Dining Room and Meeting Rooms  
**The Washington Club**  
15 DuPont Circle (East side of circle)

## Formal / Black Tie Optional

3:00 P.M. *Executive Committee Meeting*  
4:00 P.M. *General Assembly & Induction of General Officers*  
6:30 – 7:00 P.M. *Reception*  
7:00 P.M. *Dinner*

**Reception (with Cash Bar and Passed Hor D'Oeuvres) and Dinner**  
with

*Order of the Descendants of the Loyalists and Patriots of the American Revolution*  
*Aztec Club of 1847*  
*Order of the Blue and Gray*

**Dinner Program:** George J. Hill, M.D. speaking on “Reconciliation”

<b>This is your only notice and invitation to the Annual Meeting</b> <b>Please respond by March 23, 2013 using this form. Thank you</b>	
<b>Dinner Reservations:</b> <b>Mail to:</b> <i>GVG Ed Butler</i> 8830 Cross Mountain Trail, San Antonio, TX 78255	Please reserve _____ places at \$100 per place. Check payable to OFNA
	<b>Name(s):</b>
	<b>Phone:</b>
	<b>E-mail:</b>
<b>Dietary Restrictions</b>	
<b>Guests:</b>	

# Nominating Committee Slate of Officers— of the Order of Founders of North America

The Nominating Committee is presenting a slate of Officers to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on April 15, 2013. The Nominating Committee was composed of the following officers:

Grand Viscount General—Edward F. Butler  
Deputy Viscount General—Western U. S. A.  
Deputy Viscount General — Eastern U. S. A.

<b>Grand Viscount General*</b> Judge Edward F. Butler	<b>Chronicler General</b> William Marrs
<b>Grand Viscount/Viscountess General Elect*</b> Stephen Renouf	<b>Librarian General</b> Corrine Staake
<b>Immediate Past Grand Viscount General*</b> Vacant	<b>Deputy Viscount General – English Colonists</b> LTC Lawrence King Casey
<b>Deputy Viscount General - Eastern USA*</b> Lindsey Cook Brock	<b>Deputy Viscount General – Spanish Colonists</b> Jack V. Cowan
<b>Deputy Viscount General – Western USA*</b> Peter Baron	<b>Deputy Viscount General – French Colonists</b> Open
<b>Deputy Viscount General - Europe*</b> Duke Borwin of Mecklenburg	<b>Deputy Viscount General – Italian Colonists</b> Open
<b>Abogado General*</b> open	<b>Deputy Viscount General - German/Dutch Colonists</b> Robert Devine
<b>Secretary General*</b> Barbara A. Stevens	<b>Deputy Viscount General – Scottish/Irish Colonists</b> James F. Hall
<b>Exchequer General*</b> Thomas Jackson,	<b>Deputy Viscount General – Scandinavian Colonists</b> Michael Eugene Barger
<b>Mareschal General*</b> Larry Stevens	<b>Marquis General - Publicity/Public Relations</b> Vacant
<b>Co-Genealogista General - Region I*</b> Mike Radcliff	<b>Parliamentarian General</b> Billie Brock
<b>Co-Genealogista General - Region II*</b> Gerald Irion	<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b> Robert M. Wylie
<b>Registrar General*</b> Martha Gee Barnhart	<b>Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms</b> Timothy E. Ward
<b>Emissary General*</b> Karen McClendon	<b>Deputy Chronicler General</b> Donald Stone
<b>Vicar General*</b> Rev. James Taylor	<b>Deputy Vicar General</b> Rev David Hockensmith
<b>Quartermaster General</b> John T. Manning	<b>Deputy Chiurgien General</b> Dr. Gary P. Pettett
<b>Adjutant General</b> Vacant	<b>Capitan de la Guardia</b> Robert Capps
<b>Chirurgien General</b> Dr. Charles Clements Lucas	

\* = Executive Committee Members

## A Trip to Spain

Join us for the maiden voyage of the Order of the Founders of North America and experience a private, guided tour of Spain's richest heritage cities. Your one and a half weeks adventure takes you from one enchanting historical locale to the next while taking into account its relevance to the founding of North America.

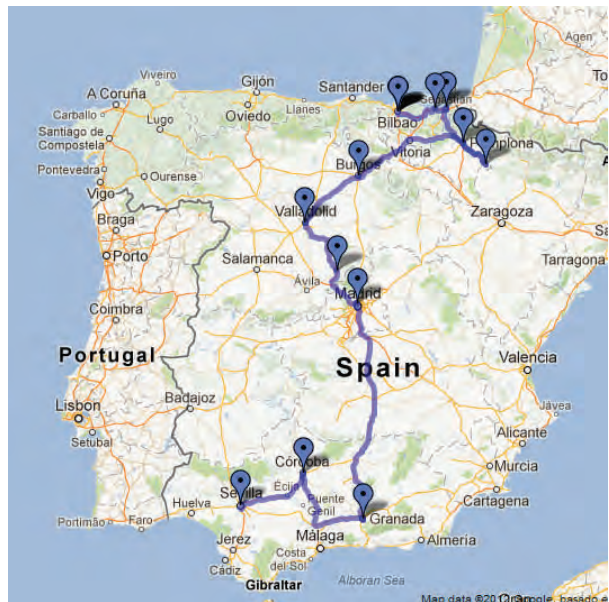


Your journey begins with your arrival in **Seville**; you will be transferred to your 4-Star Hotel Accommodations to freshen up for a late afternoon private walking tour of Seville followed later in the evening by a welcome dinner and reception. During your stay in Seville you will visit the Cathedral, Giralda, Alcazar and Santa Cruz Quarter. Our private guide will accompany us for the entirety of the trip as we begin to discover the beauty and cultural ties to North America. We will indulge in **Cordoba**'s rich culturally diverse fabric as private, local expert guides leads us through the city's Cathedral, Mosque, Synagogue, Sephardic Museum and old Quarter.

As we remain in the south of Spain we make our way to **Granada** to see the Cathedral, Royal Chapel, and Albaicin district in the Old Quarter followed by a wreath laying ceremony at the tombs of Ferdinand and Isabella. Once we have paid our respects we will move onward toward the historic and fervent capital of Spain, **Madrid**. As we embrace the beauty and magnitude of Spain's largest city, we will visit the statue of Ferdinand at Sabatini Gardens and Statue of Isabella on Castellana Avenue. This prepares us for a visit to the Royal Palace and the Old Quarter of Madrid on the following day. We are currently arranging for an audience with a member of the royal family.

During our stay in **Madrid**, we will drink in the culture, the history, traditional meals, and of course beautiful Spanish wine. In Madrid, we will have private group dinners at many well-known Spanish restaurants. Madrid is an excellent launching point for our day trips to **Segovia** to visit the Cathedral, Alcazar, Roman Aqueduct and old Jewish Quarter as well as meet with local elected officials. The following day we trek to **Valladolid** by private coach visit Palacio de los Vivero, the Cathedral and the old Quarter. Upon returning to the capital there will be visits to the Naval Museum and the Valley of the Fallen taking us full circle in our experience of the Spanish cultural landscape.

This epic journey traces America's lineage to Spain while providing us an incredibly luxurious and memorable experience with old friends and new; please be among them.



## OFNA Meeting—March 1, 2013 Brown Hotel—Louisville, KY

A meeting of the OFNA was held on March 1st in Louisville in conjunction with the NSSAR Leadership meeting. Fourteen members and nine visitors attended.

The following members were in attendance:

- Edward Butler, Grand Viscount General
- Lindsey Brock, Deputy Viscount General Eastern U.S.
- Stephen Renouf, Deputy Viscount Gen Western U.S.
- Barbara Stevens, Secretariat General
- Martha Barnhart, Registrar General
- Larry Stevens, Deputy Marquis General - Newsletter
- William Marrs, Deputy Marquis General - Website
- Billie Brock
- Timothy E. Ward
- Tony L. Vets
- Daniel Woodruff
- Ron Hamilton
- Bob Capps
- James C. Taylor



GVG Butler gave a report on the membership medals, which will be returned to the vendor for some corrections to the design. DVG Stephen Renouf reported on the trip to Spain and some of the improvements made to the itinerary. Handouts for this trip are now available, check the website.. Upcoming meetings and the website were discussed.

Membership certificates were presented to DVG Lindsey Brock and his lovely wife Billie. As they discussed their qualifying it became evident that Billie is the genealogist in the family. (see photo above)

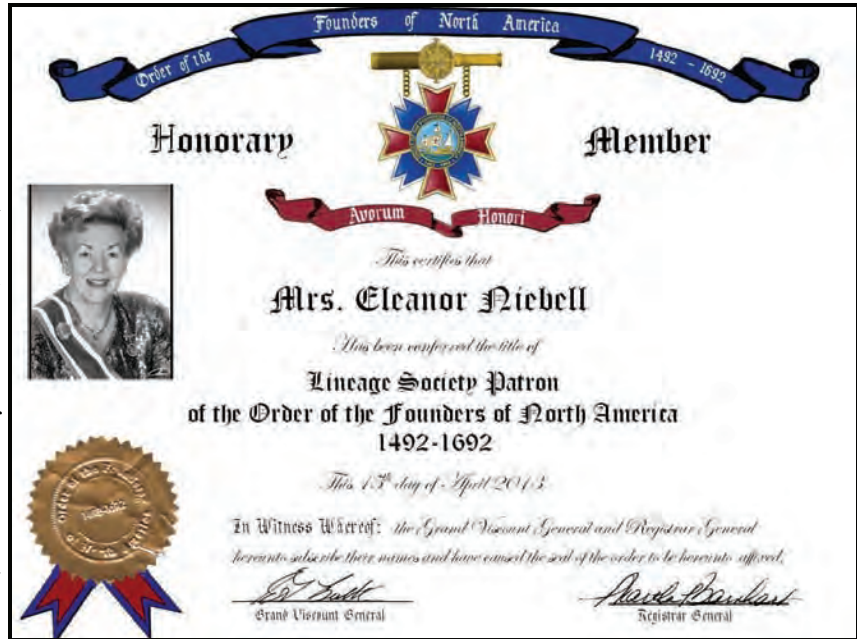




## Lineage Society Patron

Mrs. Eleanor Niebell, of Potomac Maryland, has graciously accepted the honorary appointment as Lineage Society Patron. Many will recognize Mrs. Niebell as a member of the HSC Advisory Council or perhaps in one of her other leadership roles in lineage societies.

Mrs. Niebell is the author of *Centennial Plus One, The Centennial History of the National Society Children of the American Revolution 1895—1996*.



## Genealogical Patron

Lloyd Bockstruck of Dallas, Texas has accepted the honorary appointment as Genealogical Patron. Mr. Bockstruck's education includes a degree in both history and a Masters in Library Science. Mr. Bockstruck has written columns on genealogy, taught classes at several universities. In 1994, Mr. Bockstruck was named Outstanding Alumnus of the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research. He received the Filby Prize for Genealogical Librarianship in 1999, and in 2003, he received the Northeast Texas Library Systems Lifetime Achievement Award.



# Charter Members—Recently Approved

The following Charter Members have been approved from 18th of December 2012 and March 12, 2013. If you are on the prospective member list and have not submitted your application, please don't tarry. Charter memberships are still available. And remember the trip to Spain is open to both members and non-members but members receive a \$250 discount, that's almost the cost of your lifetime dues. What a deal.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Ancestor</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Patriot</b>	<b>Location</b>
Blackburn Ph.D., Larry Hollis	Whitaker, Jabez	Jamestown, VA
Bockstruck Lloyd DeWitt	Honorary Member	
Borwin Duke of Mecklenburg	King Phillip II of Spain	Colonization of Spanish Terr in NA
Brock, Billie Lee Sheckler	Brasseur/Brashear, Benois	VA
Brown, Derek Jeffrey	Averill, William	Ipswich, Essex Co, MA
Brown, Janet J. Borczon	Areson, Derrick	Flushings, Queens, NY
Capps, Robert	Keyser, Dirck	Germantown, PA
Cowan, Jack Vance	Allen, Arthur	Surry Co, VA
Gray, Verne Allen	Bennett, James	Concord, Middlesex, MA
Hamilton, Renaldo J.	Hopkins, Stephen	Plymouth, MA
Jackson, Thomas Ashley	Dodson Sr, Charles	Old Rappahannock Co, VA
Jackson, Thomas I.	Dodson Sr, Charles	Old Rappahannock Co, VA
Knox, John Wayland	Brumwell, Peter	Middlesex Co, MA
LaRochelle, Jeffrey Mark	de Ballion, Catherine	Canada, Colonie Francaise
Lee, Anna Marie Carpenter	Lothrop/Lathrop, Rev John	MA
Lindsey Brock	Rogers, Giles	VA
Nagy, Kimberly Kay Ormsby	Ormesby, Richard	Maine/Massachusetts
Neible, Eleanor	Complimentary/honorary mbr	
Newton, Ronald Erwin	Alden, John	Plymouth, MA

## Charter Members—Recent Additions

Continued from previous page

Member	Ancestor	Location
Patten, Ann Hall	Woodson, John	VA
Peddie, Drake McNeely	Van Couwenhoven, Wolfert G.	New York
Raser, Raymond Charles	Brewster, William	Plymouth, MA
Reynolds, Paul K	Tyler, Ebenezer	Attleboro/Bristol, MA
Rios, Cheryl Faye Whitt	Witt, John	Charles City Co, VA
Roberts, Kenneth	Spencer, Timothy	Haddam, Middlesex, CT
Staacke, J. Corinne Cowan	Allen, Arthur	Surry Co, VA
Sultan, Arthur Phillips	Gomez, Mordecai	Barbados, BWI
Walker, Cherry Ellen	Smith, Hugh	Rowley, Essex, MA
Worrell, Sharyn Dianne Kelley	Dudley, Gov Thomas	MA

## Membership Information Available

Membership information can be found on the Order of the Founders of North America Website. This information includes:

<b>Documentation of Lineage</b>	<a href="http://www.o-f-n-a.org/Docu_Lineage.pdf">http://www.o-f-n-a.org/Docu_Lineage.pdf</a>
<b>Lineage Documentation Guidelines</b>	<a href="http://www.o-f-n-a.org/guide_Lineage.pdf">http://www.o-f-n-a.org/guide_Lineage.pdf</a>
<b>Membership Application</b>	<a href="http://www.o-f-n-a.org/Appl_Rev_122012.doc">http://www.o-f-n-a.org/Appl_Rev_122012.doc</a>

*Remember if you belong to one of many organization with well documented lineage you may use that record copy application to document all or part of your OFNA application. [See below] Please consult the website or one of our Genealogists General for further information.*

### Already a Member of an Organization with a Qualified Ancestor?

**Article III Eligibility for Membership. Section 3** The Order will accept documented and proven pedigrees accepted by the following lineage societies. Society of the Cincinnati (1783), Sons of the American Revolution (1889), Sons of the Revolution (1889), Daughters of the American Revolution (1890), Colonial Dames of America (1890), National Society United States Daughters of 1812 (1892 General Society of Colonial Wars (1893), General Society of the War of 1812 (1894), Children of the American Revolution (1895), Order of the Founders and Patriots of America (1896), Mayflower Society (1897), Plantagenet Society (1902), Barons and Dames of Magna Charta (1909), First Families of Virginia (1912), Colonial Dames of the XVII Century (1915), Jamestowne Society (1936), Society of the Descendants of Charlemagne (1984), First Families of Maryland (1999), First Families of Connecticut (2004), and First Families of Pennsylvania. ***The Order may accept documented and proven pedigrees accepted by other societies on a case-by-case basis.*** [emphasis added] The list will be expanded from time to time. For those applications that do not reach back before 1692, documentary evidence must be provided to connect to the applicant's Founder ancestor.

# The Mayflower Compact

## Agreement Between the Settlers at New Plymouth : 1620

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King *James*, by the Grace of God, of *Great Britain, France, and Ireland*, King, *Defender of the Faith*, &c. Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first Colony in the northern Parts of *Virginia*; Do by these Presents, solemnly and mutually, in the Presence of God and one another, covenant and combine ourselves to-

tick, for our better and Furtherance of Virtue hereof do enact such just and equal Constitutions, and as shall be thought for the general Good we promise all due



gether into a civil Body Politick, for the Ordering and Preservation, the Ends aforesaid: And by act, constitute, and frame, Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Officers, from time to time, most meet and convenient of the Colony; unto which Submission and Obedience.

**IN WITNESS** whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at *Cape-Cod* the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King *James*, of *England, France, and Ireland*, the eighteenth, and of *Scotland* the fifty-fourth, *Anno Domini*; 1620.

Mr. John Carver,  
Mr. William Bradford,  
Mr Edward Winslow,  
Mr. William Brewster.  
Isaac Allerton,  
Myles Standish,  
John Alden,  
John Turner,  
Francis Eaton,  
James Chilton,  
John Craxton,  
John Billington,  
Josias Fletcher,  
John Goodman,  
Mr. Samuel Fuller,

Mr. Christopher Martin,  
Mr. William Mullins,  
Mr. William White,  
Mr. Richard Warren,  
John Howland,  
Mr. Steven Hopkins,  
Digery Priest,  
Thomas Williams,  
Gilbert Winslow,  
Edmund Margesson,  
Peter Brown,  
Richard Britteridge  
George Soule,  
Edward Tilly,  
John Tilly,

Francis Cooke,  
Thomas Rogers,  
Thomas Tinker,  
John Ridgdale  
Edward Fuller,  
Richard Clark,  
Richard Gardiner,  
Mr. John Allerton,  
Thomas English,  
Edward Doten,  
Edward Liester.

# Exploration of the New World

## Don Juan Ponce de León, and the Discovery of Florida

By Stephen Renouf, Deputy Viscount General – Western United States

This April 2013 marks the 500th anniversary of the European discovery of Florida. The Florida peninsula was discovered by Spanish explorer Don Juan Ponce de León.

Juan Ponce de León was born about 1474 in Santervás de Campos, Castilla, between León and Valladolid. The names of his parents are not known with certainty, but the Ponce de León family was of Basque origin. The family descends from Ponce Vélaz, a nobleman of León, who in turn descended from the dukes of Vasconia.

As a youth, Juan Ponce de León served as squire to his relative Pedro Núñez de Guzmán, a Knight Commander of the Order of Calatrava. Later, Ponce served as a soldier during the campaigns of King Fernando II of Aragón and Queen Isabel of Castilla against the Moors of Granada, which led to the liberation of the last territory occupied by the Moors in the Iberian Peninsula on January 2, 1492.

With the successful ending of the *Reconquista*, and the excitement of the discovery of the New World by Cristóbal Colón on October 12, 1492, Ponce may have joined Colón's second voyage to America in September 1493 as a captain of infantry. The fleet arrived in the Caribbean in November 1493, and *en route* to Hispaniola, anchored off the coast of the island of Borikén – Ponce's first



JUAN PONCE DE LEON

sighting of what would later be named Puerto Rico. If Ponce did accompany Cristóbal Colón on the second voyage, he evidently returned to Spain.

In 1502, King Fernando II of Aragón sent Nicolás de Ovando y Cáceres to replace Francisco de Bobadilla as the third governor of the Indies. Ovando was sent to increase gold mining in the Indies, and he brutally exploited the local Indians for mining and farming. Ponce likely accompanied Ovando on his

voyage from Spain to Hispaniola.

In 1504, the Taíno Indians of Higüey on Hispaniola attacked a Spanish garrison on the island, and Ponce served in the suppression of the rebellion. Ponce distinguished himself in the fighting – Governor Ovando made Ponce governor of the new province of Higüey, and gave him a large land grant. Ponce became a successful planter and rancher, and supplied produce and livestock to the port of Boca de Yuma, the last stop for Spanish ships making the voyage back to Spain. He married Leonora and had four children - Juana, Isabel, María and Luis.

In his contact with the Taíno Indians, Ponce heard tales of the rich neighboring island of Borikén (now called Puerto Rico). He received permission from Governor Ovando to explore the island. In 1508, he received permission from King Fernando II of Aragón for the first official

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Don ponce de leon". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

(Continued from page 13)

exploration of island – called San Juan Bautista by its discoverer, Cristóbal Colón. Ponce landed in San Juan Bay, and established the first settlement at Caparra. In 1509, Ponce returned to Hispaniola with gold discovered on the island. Governor Ovando appointed Ponce

Bautista rebelled and besieged Caparra. Once reinforcements arrived from Hispaniola, Ponce was able to suppress the rebellion. Caparra was situated near the gold mines, but it was a poor location, so Ponce started to fortify San Juan Bay, named San Juan de Puerto Rico, which eventually replaced Caparra as the capital.



In 1511, King Fernando II of Aragón decided that the Crown had unfairly infringed on the Colón family's rights, and officially appointed Juan Ceron to replace Ponce as governor of San Juan Bautista. However, the king also cautioned Diego Colón not to deprive Ponce of any of his land, gold or Indians.

Rumors of the rich island of Bimini and surrounding islands to the northwest of Hispaniola led to a new venture for Ponce. King Fernando II of Aragón, eager to prevent the spread of the privileges of the Colón family in the New World, contracted with Juan Ponce de León on February 23,

as the first governor of San Juan Bautista (Puerto Rico), which was later confirmed by King Fernando II of Aragón.

As governor, Ponce set up an *encomienda* system, dividing the local Taíno Indians among the Spanish settlers for use as laborers growing crops and mining for gold. In 1509, Diego Colón, son of Cristóbal Colón, replaced Ovando as Governor of the Indies. Diego Colón replaced Ponce as governor with Juan Ceron. King Fernando II of Aragón sent a royal order confirming Ponce as governor of San Juan, so Diego Colón was forced to remove Ceron and make Ponce governor again. In 1510, the Taíno Indians of San Juan

1512, to discover and explore the new islands outside the authority of Diego Colón. Ponce was required to completely finance the expedition, but he would be governor for life of all lands he discovered. Ponce started recruiting sailors and soldiers to the chagrin of Governor Colón, but the governor was unable to prevent it. On March 3, 1513, Ponce and his expedition set sail from Puerto Rico on three ships – *Santiago*, *San Cristóbal* and *Santa María de la Consolación*. Ponce's pilot was Antón de Alaminos, who was the pilot for the fourth voyage of Cristóbal Colón. Ponce sailed northwest along the chain of the Lucayos islands (the Ba-

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

hama islands). On March 14, 1513, they stopped at San Salvador (now Semana Cay), the first land discovered by Cristóbal Colón in 1492. Leaving the Lucayos, they crossed open water and, on March 27, 1513, they sighted a new island (actually the Florida peninsula). On April 2, 1513, Ponce landed on the North American Continent somewhere between present day St. Augustine and Jacksonville, and took possession of the “island” in the name of King Fernando II of Aragón. Ponce named the new territory *La Florida* – after *Pascua Florida* (“flowery Easter”) since it was Easter season. On April 8, 1513, they continued to sail south in search of new islands, when they discovered the powerful Gulf Stream in the strait between Florida and the Bahamas – which would become the primary route to return to Europe. They sailed close to shore to avoid the Gulf Stream, and discovered the Florida Keys – which Ponce named *Los Mártires* (“the Martyrs”) because they looked to Ponce like a series of crucified figures from a distance. In the keys, he found herons, flamingoes, pelicans, and egrets. Ponce sailed northeast through the keys, and found the west coast of Florida on May 23, 1513. They landed at present day Charlotte Harbor to repair the ships, and encountered fierce Indians. They fought several skirmishes with the Indians, and took a few prisoners. The captives described islands to the west, so they sailed on June 14, discovering the Dry Tortugas, named after the plentiful turtles found there, on June 21, 1513. They then retraced their route, reaching Bahama Island on July 8, 1513. Ponce ordered the captain of the *Santa Maria* to continue exploring, while he returned to Puerto Rico with his other two ships, arriving on October 19, 1513.

Ponce left Puerto Rico in April 1514 and returned to Spain to report on his discoveries. When he reported to King Fernando II of Aragón in Valladolid, he was knighted and given a coat of arms. He was confirmed as governor of all the islands that he had discov-

ered, and named *Adelantado* of Bimini and Florida. Per the agreement, the King would construct fortifications in the new lands, sent agents to divide the Indians among the settlers, and receive 10% of the gold discovered there. In December 1515, Ponce returned to the Caribbean to help subdue the fierce Carib Indians, who continued to attack Spanish settlements in the Caribbean (as they had attacked other Indian settlements in the Caribbean for hundreds of years).

In 1521, Ponce depleted much of his fortune to finance an expedition of 200 men to colonize Florida. They sailed to the southwest coast of Florida, and landed near Charlotte Harbor. When they landed, they were attacked by Calusa Indians, and Ponce was wounded in the thigh by a poisoned Calusa arrow while leading his troops in the skirmish. With their leader wounded, his men decided to retreat to Cuba. Shortly after his arrival in La Habana, Don Juan Ponce de León died of his wound in July 1521. Spain would not again try to colonize Florida until *Adelantado* Pedro Menéndez de Avilés founded St. Augustine in 1565.

In 1559, the remains of Juan Ponce de León were returned to Puerto Rico, and he was interred in the crypt of San Jose Church, where they remained until they were transferred in 1863 to his final resting place beneath the high altar in the Cathedral of San Juan Bautista, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

#### Sources

Ober, Frederick. *Juan Ponce de Leon*, 1908.  
Otfinoski, Steven. *Great Explorers. Juan Ponce de Leon, Discoverer of Florida*, 2005.

#### Illustrations

Juan Ponce de Leon portrait – from Frederick Ober’s *Juan Ponce de Leon*, 1908.

Juan Ponce de Leon signature – from [http://bellsouthpwp.net/r/u/ruiz\\_b/PuertoRico/juan\\_ponce\\_de\\_leon.htm](http://bellsouthpwp.net/r/u/ruiz_b/PuertoRico/juan_ponce_de_leon.htm)

Map of La Florida – from the Naval Museum in Madrid, Spain

## Editor's Note

This Issue of *The Spy Glass* contains O-F-N-A's most recent events, information of upcoming events and trips, and articles by our members. I would especially like to thank Steve Renouf for his account of the adventures of the legendary Ponce a de Leon.

The Nominating Committee has proposed a list of members for officer positions for the next term. Approval of the proposed officers will be on the Agenda of the Annual meeting in Washington DC on April 15, 2013.

We had added *LINKS to PUBLICATIONS* in this newsletter; a *Brochure on the Fall 2013 Spain Tour*; a printable *NEW MEMBER FLYER*; and, proposed *BY-LAWS Amendments*. Please *use* these links to view each.

My vision for future issues of the newsletter is to include more Officer Reports and more Historical Articles on the Exploration and Settlement of North America. In the epic poem, *The Courtship of Myles Standish*, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, he described the departing of the Mayflower on its voyage back to England and he gives you an anxious feeling of being left behind as your ship back disappears in the sunset.

Larry G. Stevens, Deputy Marquis General—Newsletter

## Membership Patch



A members patch to be worn on a blazer will be available at the April 15th meeting in Washington D. C. The patch has a clutch back so that it is easy to wear to meetings and then remove. We have only twenty-five on hand currently, we expect that this inventory may be sold at the April meeting. If this is so, we will reorder. The cost of the patches is \$25, plus shipping if they are not picked up at a meeting.