

# Club Tattler

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST**

Newest Club Members

**Dr. Edgar H. Ballenas of Plymouth, MA., sponsored by Alan Zanotti and Ed David.**

**Jeffrey D. Chute of Plymouth, MA., sponsored by Bob Dawson and Jim Cotter.**

**Michael G. Curtis,**

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**Notable Quote:**

The wise man must be wise before, not after, the event.

Fabulae Incertae, Epicharmus

**The Plymouth Colony Seal**      **James Baker**

I expect that all of you familiar with the Plymouth Colony Seal that has been used for generations as a symbol of the Old Colony Club, as well as by the Town of Plymouth, the Pilgrim Society and other Plymouth organizations. I gather, however that it's origin is a bit hazy to most members, so I would like to discuss (as far as is known) the seal and it's significance.

To Begin, there isn't much information available about the seal. As far as I can ascertain, the only account of the seal is given by William S. Russell in the 1855 edition of Plymouth's first guidebook, *Pilgrim Memorials* (first published, without the seal note, in 1846), p. 220. He observes that the first imitation of a seal is in a 1624 letter from Robert Cushman to William Bradford., in which Cushman advises that the colony "make [its] corporation as formal as you can, under the name of the society in Plymouth in New England". The acquisition of the seal most likely followed the receipt of the 1629 "Warwick Patent" which implicitly granted the use of a official seal in New Plymouth.



Russell goes on to quote Samuel Davis' description of the seal: "The Old Colony arms, four men kneeling, implumed hearts in their hands, on a field quarterly, was its head ornament; legend, *Plymouth Novanglia, sigillum, societatis, 1620*". The original seal was taken from the archives during the Andros administration (1686-88), and the Colony never got another made before Plymouth was absorbed into Massachusetts Bay in 1692.

The best example of the seal available in the 19th century was a reproduction engraved

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**Dates For the Club Calendar**

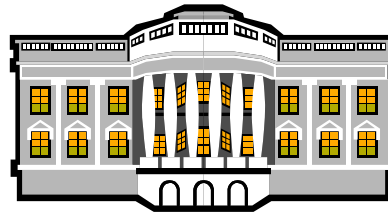
<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>Menu</u>	<u>Time</u>
Fri.	Sept 26	Social Evening	Lamb	5:30 PM
Mon.	Sept 29	E/Com Meeting	—	7:00 PM
Fri	Oct 3	Business Meeting	Beef	5:30 PM
Fri	Oct 10	Social Evening	Turkey	5:30 PM
Mon	Oct 13	Columbus Day	—	—
Fri	Oct 17	Social Meeting	Italian	5:30 PM
Fri	Oct 24	Past Presidents Night	Hors d'Oeuvre	6:00 PM / Ladies
Fri	Oct 31	Halloween Social	Pot Roast	5:30 PM

On red meat nights there will be chicken or fish alternatives and sugar free desserts are generally available. The kitchen will be happy to honor these or any special requests with proper notice.

## President's Message

Hello again ... It's hard to believe that it's been a month since we've "spoken". And what a month it was! Our dinner meetings attendance was better than average; our New Member development produced 3 new and 1 reinstated OCC members; and the visit to Peter Gomes' home, "*Harvard in Plymouth*", was as spectacular as anticipated from past experiences.

We kick-started September's activities with the long-awaited visit to Peter's Plymouth home and gardens. Peter pulled out all the stops (he is, after all, also a celebrated organist). He shared that wonderful sanctuary on Russell Street with about 70 OCC members and their guests. The weather was perfect, there were plentiful hors d'oeuvres, great punches (both "regular" and "decaff"), a Brass Quintet playing both show tunes and semi-classical pieces and all catalyzed by 5+ dozen good friends made for a magnificent late-Summer reprieve from the day to day world outside the wrought iron gate. As a special "bonus", the *Reverend Professor Gomes* presented each of us with an autographed copy of the VERY FIRST copies of his newest book, "*What We Forgot to Tell You*" .... which had arrived from his publisher that very morning. Thank you Peter ... from all of us.



Past President's Night Oct 24th

## *Tony Lonardo*

A highlight of our September 12 Business Meeting was the election of three new members into the OCC. *Dr. Edgar Bellesnas*, *Jeffery Chute* and *Michael Curtis*. Mike is a former member and OCC past President who recently moved to North Carolina. He had properly resigned in good standing making him eligible for reinstatement into the Club.

We also announced that *Past Presidents Night* will be celebrated on Friday, Oct 24 th at 6:00 PM, at the Club. It is a Ladies Night and there will again be hors d'oeuvres, other nibbles, a fine array of beverages, as well as all the incidentals it takes to make a good time happen. This annual event is our way of saying "thank you" to the past presidents who are with us that night as well as those who are not. This is an important evening; please mark your calendars, sign-up ASAP so that we can inform the caterer regarding the number we expect, and come have a good time.

Hope to see you at the Club before we "talk" again via this Newsletter. So long for now.  
Tony

## What's New ?

**We have a few new things** of interest, brought to you by your industrious and dedicated House Committee. In the liquor department, I have procured a bottle of *Screech*, an odd and delicious dark rum from Newfoundland. Try it and see what you think, but don't acquire a taste for it...it may be years before I can get it again! For the fridge, Kuno has graciously provided a case of Saku Estonian Pilsner. This was popular among the beer aficionados last Friday. I will try to keep this on hand more often, since the club now has a greater population of Estonians than Europe does (proportionally speaking). In the Smoking Room there is a tin of *Aloids* by the humidifier for those who feel the need to freshen their breath before leaving the chummy confines of the club. If I got my act together in time, then the website should be updated with some new information. Thanks to President Tony for prodding me into action on this one. If you have anything to contribute, please email it to the address on the website. I would especially like to get a set of Bestia Rules to put up there. The website is at <http://www.oldcolonyclub.org>. As always, if there is anything you would especially like to see on a Friday night, do let me know and I will see what I can do ease your desperate yearning.

OCC Member John Sgammato is House Committee Chairman and regular contributor to the Club Tattler

## *John Sgammato*

\*\*\*\*\*  
*The Old Colony Club has again received a summons from the Plymouth Police Department regarding our alarm system. False alarms from the Club are excessive and we will be fined at a higher rate each time in the future. The Club had requested the installation of this new system for the protection of the Club facilities and the contents within. Please use the correct alarm code each time you enter or leave the building. Last month we enclosed a wallet card with this newsletter for quick reference. Help us out, please read directions and use the new code.*

## Club Connection

The following 2003 Executive Board Members are listed for your convenience. If you need information about the Club, one of the upcoming events, Club Membership List or if you've lost your Key, call or E-Mail us.

President	Tony Lonardo	508-224-5856	alonardo@capecod.net
1st VP	Don Brown	508-830-9420	debrown@adelphia.net
2nd VP	Bill Rudolph	508-747-4271	wrudolph41@aol.com
Secretary	James Kiefer	508-747-8883	james.kiefer@verizon.net
Treasurer	Dennis Stinnett	508-746-4297	gstinnett@msn.com

## To John Sgammato :      *Bob Cole*

### House Committee Chairman

There's cognac and cheeses,  
 All things to just please us,  
 We're thankful and that is because,  
     John's work is amazing,  
 And while we're all grazing,  
 We notice the things that he does.  
 Oh, it's pickles and cheese,  
 And eat all that you please,  
 A herring awaits at the end;  
     And olives galore,  
 Not the kind at the store,  
 They're the ones that a monarch might send.  
 We're all just so favored,  
 The mint juleps flavored,  
 We're assuredly fond of the trend;  
     But there's an old issue,  
     So get out a tissue,  
 We're worried, you see, for our friend.  
     He likes Derek and Roger,  
     The Yankees' old codger,  
 When 'round the Fen's grandeur they wend;  
     But, we're grateful no less,  
     And there's no second guess,  
 For the work offered up by our friend.

*OCC member Bob Cole is a retired History Professor and contributor*

### *Fire Alarm and Telephone Calls*

We are still having problems with our members setting off the burglar alarm because they don't use the alarm code. We have received an additional \$75 fine from the Police Department on September 1; bringing the total amount of fines to date to almost \$300. PLEASE - if you do not know the alarm numbers and code name CALL ME or another board member and ask. We cannot take a chance of having the police ignore the alarms; which is what they allowed to do in the case of too many false alarms.

We are also faced with a problem which has been increasing recently. That is the unauthorized use of our Club's telephone for toll and out of state phone calls. This must stop happening. The facts are such that the usage has been determined to be not an oversight!! Ours is a gentlemen's club ... Let's all act as such in matters of mutual trust. We have never, in the recent history of our Club, had to lock our phones or block all toll calls and we do not want to start now. Thank you for your attention.

As President of the OCC, I take full responsibility for the comments regarding phone call usage stated above.      Tony Lonardo

## The Plymouth Colony Seal

*James Baker*

Continued from page 1

For Nathaniel B. Shurtleffs published edition of the Plymouth County Records, which was copied from one illustration in "the oldest extant copy" of the printed Plymouth Colony Laws (either the first edition of 1671, or because of the way it was phrased, the second of 1685). A copy of this law book, by the way, was carried by the members of the Old Colony Club in the 18th century Forefathers' Day processions.

It is entirely speculative on my part, but I wonder whether the heraldic hearts held by the four men are not "enflamed" rather than "implumed". Such hearts are used in heraldry, as Randle Holme informs us (Academy of Armourie, 1688) to denote the reception of the Holy Spirit, as in Acts 2:3,4 ("and there appeared unto them cloven tongues, like as of fire, and sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost..."), and is certainly a congenial symbol

*I wonder whether the  
 heraldic hearts held by the  
 four men are not "enflamed"  
 rather than "implumed"*

to Puritans who expected the indwelling of Grace in New England hearts.

At any rate, once the seal was published by Shurtleff (1855), it was borrowed widely and not least by the Old Colony Club. One further note—because of the ubiquity of the seal, I was moved in the spirit of variety to use a different Pilgrim image for the new Reading Room bookplate. I found a room-ticket (for reserving rooms for the night at the Club in the 1870's) in a Club scrapbook (made by Dexter Brooks) which used a small engraving of the Pilgrims' Landing. This same cut is found on a dance card for a Forefathers Day about the same time (They had women at the earliest Forefathers' Day dinners, in the 1870's!). Using this precedent, it is this alternative picture that is on the bookplate.

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# OLD COLONY CLUB

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## A Gentleman's Club

*An establishment for  
social meetings and other  
non profitable purposes*

*We're on the web  
[www.oldcolonyclub.org](http://www.oldcolonyclub.org)*

## Cooking With Jack...

*The summer season is about over, the barbeque grilles are put back into storage and it's time to think about a hot bowl of soup to take off the fall chill. Jack has many recipes he classifies as "excellent" but this one he rated "excellent with five stars". We hope you enjoy it as much as we did.*



### White Bean Chourico Tomato Soup

*2 Cups diced sweet onions*

*2 Tablespoons Olive Oil*

*1—48 oz can Chicken Broth*

*1—28 oz can Plum Tomatoes*

*2—16 oz cans White Beans, drained and rinsed*

*2 Chourico (Furtados Best)*

*1/2 cup Parmesan Cheese (optional)*

*Boil Chourico to remove some of the fat (for 5—10 min). Remove Chourico skins and slice after boiling. Set aside.*

*In a large pot saute onions in oil for 4 or 5 minutes. Add broth, tomatoes, beans and meat.*

*Heat to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 25 to 30 minutes uncovered. Stir in the Parmesan Cheese or serve on the side.*

**Hope you enjoy.....Jack**