



# THE PILGRIM WILLIAM WHITE SOCIETY NEWS

EST. 2013

Vol. 1, No. 1 30 April 2013

Richard S. Wheeler, Editor

Dear Members of The Pilgrim William White Society:

It was emotional writing this first message for our very first newsletter. We have finally joined together from all over the U.S. as the White family to honor and celebrate our dear ancestor, William White and his family, by forming The Pilgrim William White Society.

We actually do not know very much about our ancestor William White. We do not know where he was born. We do not know who his parents were. We do not know where he met Susanna, or where they were married. We do not know if he and Susanna started the voyage to New England as part of the group from Holland, or joined the voyage as part of the English group. We do know this—we all want to know more about William and Susanna. This is one of the reasons this Society was formed.

Another reason for the Society is that we seem to inherently have a bond with each other and we want to know a little more about each other—our cousins, as we fondly say. In this first issue of the newsletter, the members who agreed to serve as interim officers will be introduced. We have included a short biography and picture of each one. Also included is a bio and picture of the editor of our newsletter, Richard Wheeler, to whom we are very grateful for taking on the big project of producing a newsletter four times a year, as we intend to do.

In following issues, we shall continue to introduce members, a few at a time. So, get your bio and picture ready to go for when you are contacted. Also in future issues, we shall discuss other reasons for forming the Society; bring you up to speed on organizational progress; and share new developments in areas of interest to our Society.

Our first opportunity to meet in person will be at the Triennial Congress of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in September 2014. We shall get together for a social and business meeting where officers will be elected, bylaws ratified, and other needed business attended to.

It has been a pleasure reading your lineages. Please continue your conversations by using Yahoogroups, established for us by Leah Davis; or by e-mail using addresses from the directory compiled by Susie Wuest and included in this newsletter.

If you have questions, comments, ideas, etc. please do not hesitate to write to me at [prariec@me.com](mailto:prariec@me.com).

Very best regards,

*Prarie*

Prarie Counce, Interim Governor  
The Pilgrim William White Society



Organizing Governor  
Prarie Counce

## IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome from Organizing Governor	1
Membership Directory	2
WmWhiteSociety Yahoogroup	3
Organizing Officers' Profiles	3-6
Looking Back	7
Spreading the Word	8
"Written in Bones" Project	9
Legal "Stuff" from Editor	10

# INAUGURAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

(\* = charter member; \*\* = friend)



Bruce Allen  
Rapid City, SD

Robert Bailey\*  
Conover, WI

Janice Bassett\*  
Sun City Center, FL

Wayne Paul Bates  
Boylston, MA

Raymond Chaffin\*  
Fort Worth, TX

Tiffany Chamberlain\*  
Garland, TX

Prarie Counce\*  
Carrollton, TX

David Counce\*\*  
(husband of Prarie Counce)  
Carrollton, TX

Donna Crosby\*  
Sammamish, WA

Leah Davis\*  
Conroe, TX

Jan Downing\*  
Arlington, VA

Carolyn Fowler\*\*  
Severna Park, MD  
(wife of James (Jim) Fowler)

Frank Fowler\*  
Dillon, MT

James Fowler\*  
Severna Park, MD

Virginia Frisone\*  
Copely, OH

Nancy Gilbert\*  
Arlington, TX

Jan Groves\*  
Baton Rouge, LA

Norma Heaton\*  
Hagerstown, MD

Warren Howard\*  
Burtonsville, MD

Dorothy "Earlene" White Lawrence  
Florissant, MO

Evelyn Layton\*  
Stevensville, MO

Amy Lowe\*  
Baton Rouge, LA

Sylvia Nelson\*  
Kilgore, TX

Pat Nichols\*  
Georgetown, TX

Eileen Patch\*  
Endwell, NY

J. Benese Scherrer\*  
North Las Vegas, NV

Margaret Schlabach  
Lecanto, FL

Mark Shackelford\*  
Plainview, TX

D. Alan Smith\*  
Mesena, GA

Kirksey Smith\*\*  
(granddaughter of Alan Smith)

Harper Smith\*\*  
(grandson of Alan Smith)

Kathryn Tyson  
Davis, CA

Jon H. Wheeler\*  
Jacksonville, FL

Richard S. Wheeler\*  
Eustis, FL

Everett White\*  
Cumberland, ME

Kenneth Whitemore, Jr.  
San Diego, CA

Barbara Williams\*  
Chester, SC

Frank Williams\*\*  
(husband of Barbara Williams)  
Chester, SC

Susie Wuest\*  
Boca Raton, FL

## WmWhiteSociety YA- HOOGROUP

**Y**ahoo offers a free means of communication for groups called Yahoogroups. This allows any member admitted into the group to send a message to all other members, and also to receive messages from all other members. This is an excellent venue for discussion, for publicizing information regarding upcoming events, for welcoming new members, and extremely helpful for sharing research information. It is also great for reminding members to pay their dues. The WmWhiteSociety has been set up as a restricted Yahoogroup. It is restricted to only members of The Pilgrim William White Society. Often when groups are unrestricted, unwanted mail from gremlins comes into the communications. Invitations have been sent to all members, most have respond-



ed. If you have not received an invitation to join, or if not knowing what it was you possibly deleted it, please e-mail me with your name and e-mail address. You will receive another invitation which will be valid for 30 days. When numbers are issued, we will require the TPWWS number be submitted as well.

To send a message to the group, type "WmWhiteSociety@Yahoogroups.com" (without the quotation marks but remember! Yahoogroups is plural) into the "TO" box of your email composition screen. Only members can send and receive messages.

Leah Davis  
Yahoogroup Moderator

## MEET YOUR INTERIM OFFICERS

### ORGANIZING GOVERNOR PRARIE COUNCE

**P**rarie Counce grew up in the Texas Panhandle and graduated from West Texas A&M University with a B.B.A. Degree. She began her professional career at Tinker Air Force Base as an Item Management Specialist. She concluded her professional life as a Building Services Supervisor with the Denton County Fresh Water Supply District. She and her husband, David, have two children and two grandchildren. Both Prarie and David are retired and enjoy spending time with their grandchildren, doing volunteer work, and traveling.

Prarie became a member of the Mayflower Society in 2008 after a year-long research project of proving her descent from William and Susanna White, through Peregrine. She joined the Dallas/Fort Worth Colony. She was selected as Corresponding Secretary of the colony the following year. She also participates in the colony education program dressed as one of her Pilgrim ancestors, Susanna White Winslow.

Prarie belongs to the Daughters of the American Revolution in which she currently serves as Co-Chairman of her chapter Women's Issues Committee. She is active in her homeowner's association having served as secretary, vice-president, and president. She has served as secretary of Friends of the Fine Arts and as secretary, program chairman, and president of Mobil Pipeline Wives' Club. She has also done volunteer work in her church, in food banks, for LOVE, Inc., in nursing homes, for Habitat for Humanity, and in her children's and grandchildren's schools.

Prarie is currently serving as Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants Corresponding Secretary and Organizing Governor (interim) of The Pilgrim William White Society.



**ORGANIZING DEPUTY GOVERNOR  
JAMES (JIM) FOWLER**

**J**im joined the Maryland Mayflower Society in August 2003 and is currently serving his second (non-sequential) term as recording secretary. His wife Carolyn is state historian. Jim began his retirement on January 1, 2000, following a nearly 40-year career in public relations and publishing with three national organizations. He is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park. Carolyn and Jim have four daughters, all Mayflower Society members, 13 7/9 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. They reside in Severna Park.



**ORGANIZING CORRESPONDING SECRETARY  
SUSIE WUEST**

**S**usie Wuest and her husband Paul moved to Boca Raton, FL, in 2001 after living in Rochester, NY, all their lives. Susie always knew she was eligible to join the Mayflower Society as her great-aunt had done all the research and joined Mayflower in the late 1940s. So, looking for a way to make new friends after moving to Florida, two years later she joined Mayflower and became a member of FSMD's John Alden Colony. Membership in DAR, Jamestowne Society, and six other genealogical societies have since followed.



Having always been a stay-at-home mom and now having two grown children living in Pennsylvania and California, Susie has the time to be involved. Presently, she is treasurer of her colony, regent of her Estahakee DAR chapter, and treasurer and secretary of several other societies. She was delighted to be asked to serve on TPWWS's interim board as corresponding secretary. Susie describes herself as very detailed-oriented and is looking forward to meeting all her new-found cousins!

**ORGANIZING RECORDING SECRETARY  
LEAH SHAWVER DAVIS**

**L**eah joined the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in 2003 and is a descendent of William White through his son Resolved. Serving as the BOA Rep., designing and executing the Indian pin, assisting with Member's grave marking, Education Chairman, visiting schools with book donations and telling the Mayflower story, as well as serving on the nominating committee and currently serving as Deputy Governor have been her contributions to the Houston Colony. As a Texas Society member she has served as Library Chair from 2005-2007, Chair of the Nominating committee in 2007, and Recording Secretary 2009-2011. She has attended 3 of the last General Society Meetings in Plymouth, serving as a Delegate.



Leah is an organizing member and currently serves as Parliamentarian and has served in many offices in the Coughatti Trace DAR Chapter and several Texas State Chairmanships. She is a 40 year member of DAR. She was Organizing Regent of the John Barker, Esq. DAC Chapter in 2002. She has served the Texas State Daughters of the American Colonists in various offices and Chairmanships. She is a Past President of the St. Bartholomew Chapter, Texas Huguenot Society, Inc., a member of Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, Mareen Duvall Society, Order of the Crown of Charlemagne, and Order of the Merovingian Dynasty.

Leah and Nat Davis have three children, Nat Hart Davis III, Leah Katherine Pisaturo, and Lois Ann Davis, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren, she is active in her Church and with grandchildren, and her High School Reunion group, as well as several other organizations. Nat is a retired Attorney, a 50+ year Mason and 50+ year member of the Scottish Rite. Leah and Nat enjoy travel.



**ORGANIZING TREASURER  
J. BENESE SCHERRER**

**B**enese became a member of GSMD in early 2012 after joining her sister, Prarie Counce, on the GSMD Historic Sites Tour of 2011. The tour, planned by Historian Barbara Williams, was fun and very educational. Benese met so many nice people and enjoyed the tour so much that she submitted her membership application paperwork on her return home to North Las Vegas.

A graduate of West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas, Benese's early careers included bank examination, auditing and air traffic control, before becoming a stay-at-home mom. Her husband Bob is a retired corporate pilot. They have two children.

**ORGANIZING HISTORIAN  
BARBARA WILLIAMS**

**B**arbara Williams is a native of Portland, ME, and now lives in Chester, SC. Her Mayflower roots began in MA and eventually her ancestors discovered beautiful Maine. Her Pilgrim path started in WA state where she lived when she became a member of the General Society. Later, living in Texas, Barbara was asked to become State Historian, a position she held for thirteen years. During that time, she also served as TXMD Governor and Assistant General. She founded the Amarillo Colony and was its first Governor. From 1999 until 2005, she compiled two lineage books for the TX Society which brought lineages up to date from Volumes I and II done some thirty years before. In 1990, her work 400 Years With a New England Lewes-Lewis Family was published by Gateway Press. Barbara is now serving for the 14th year as Chair for GSMD's Historic Sites Committee. She has compiled the first Historic Sites book for GSMD and planned four tours, three to historic sites in England and Holland, and one to MA. Presently Governor of the Pilgrim Henry Samson Kindred, she will present a plaque honoring the founders to St. Mary's Church in Henlow, England, in May. Barbara is honored to play a part in the forming of The Pilgrim William White Society.



**ORGANIZING ELDER  
D. ALAN SMITH**

**A**lan Smith is the interim Elder of The Pilgrim William White Society and is a descendant of Resolved. He is a United Methodist elder and has been a member of the North Georgia Conference for 39 years. He retired two years ago. He has been a member of the GSMD three years and has been an avid family historian for most of his life. He was a major contributor to the John Graves



of Concord genealogy for the southern branch of the family. He has been a member of the SAR for 34 years (a charter member of one chapter and the reorganizing member of another chapter) and a member of First Families of Georgia for 25 years. He is the Governor Nominee Designate for Rotary District 6910, which means he will be governor in 2015-16. He is married to the former Judy Loyless Murph of Aiken, SC. Alan grew up in a Spanish Revival home and later lived in a Four Square home, both in Savannah. After watching his father restore two homes, he and Judy decided to restore a Greek Revival raised cottage in Thomson, GA. After 22 years of restoration, they are now restoring and installing gardens for their home. Their five acres are a very small part of the original four thousand acre plantation. They have two sons and two grandchildren. One son is a United Methodist elder and the other works at the Fernbank Natural History Museum in Atlanta.

## LOOKING BACK

by

D. Alan Smith

**F**amily stories and house stories have much in common. There is always a germ of truth in there somewhere. Our task is to uncover it and then share the “real” truth and not the received truth. The GSMD has gone to great lengths to fully document grand parents in every conceivable way. When I was going through the documentation for membership, I often fussed about it to my wife who simply smiled.



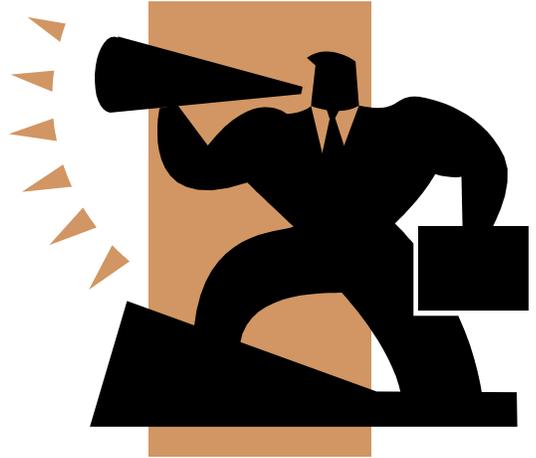
The picture of Peregrine White’s house with its rock in front (see photo at right) is NOT Peregrine’s house. There may be a small remnant of his house, but to quote the History of Marshfield, v.1, p. 14: “a portion of the timbers of the house occupied by Peregrine is still in existence in the dwelling of Mr. Ewell.” A portion of the structure does not equal the structure. For a house to qualify for the National Register of Historic Places, the first point is whether or not the builder would recognize the structure. The late 19th century home has no resemblance to the original New England saltbox of the 1690’s (see image below). I spent a week researching Peregrine’s house to see if we wanted to secure its existence. While I see nothing to preserve, I did discover an incredibly interesting set of descendants of Peregrine: Sybil, Anna and John. They were the last Whites to live in the house. Over the next several issues, I will be highlighting their story. They died without issue. It is our responsibility to tell their story lest they are lost to the family.



917 THE ORIGINAL PEREGRINE WHITE HOUSE, MARSHFIELD, MASS. COPYRIGHT 1909 BY A. S. BURBANK, PLYMO

## SPREADING THE WORD TO BUILD MEMBERSHIP

by  
Jim Fowler



**M**embership growth of The Pilgrim William White Society depends first on letting William White descendants know that the society exists. To that end, an announcement of the society's formation has been emailed to state society governors, historians and newsletter editors asking them to alert their members. To date, responses have been received from Alabama, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Montana and Rhode Island. (North Dakota advises that its membership includes no William White descendants.) In Florida, emails were sent to all 16 colony governors enclosing Prarie Counce's 18 Feb 2013 invitation letter and asking them to forward that invitation to all William White descendants in their colonies.

Maryland, Minnesota and Missouri have already published announcements in their newsletters. Arkansas and Florida have said their spring newsletter will include an item. Connecticut has scheduled an item for its summer edition.

William White descendants in Georgia, Maryland and Texas have been contacted directly by board members resulting in numerous new members. Current members of the society are asked to contact William White descendants in their state societies and encourage them to join.

Alice Teal, editor of The Mayflower Quarterly, has indicated that she will publish an announcement in a forthcoming edition.

Positive feedback has been received from Dr. Jeremy Bangs, director, Leiden American Pilgrim Museum; Ann Berry, executive director, The Pilgrim Society and Pilgrim Hall Museum; and Anthony Darbyshire, chair, The Pilgrim Fathers UK Origins Association. Ellie Donovan, executive director, Plimoth Plantation, has also been advised of the society's formation.

In addition, as a follow-up, this newsletter will be emailed to state governors, historians and newsletter editors. As a member, please don't miss an opportunity at state and colony meetings to promote membership in The Pilgrim William White Society.

### THE PILGRIM WILLIAM WHITE SOCIETY TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF 10 APR 2013

REDACTED

## **"WRITTEN IN BONES" PROJECT**

**by  
Prarie Counce  
Interim Governor**

I have just returned from the Texas Society Annual meeting with some very interesting news. The Mayflower Society and the Smithsonian Museum have entered into a joint project called "Written in Bones" hoping to eventually exhume the bones in the Cole Hill area of Plymouth, MA. The Mayflower Society



Cole's Hill is a National Historic Landmark containing the first cemetery used by the Pilgrims in Plymouth, MA, in 1620. The hill is located on Carver Street near the foot of Leyden Street and across the street from Plymouth Rock. Pictured is the NHL plaque on Cole's Hill with Plymouth Bay in the background.

has formed a committee called the Cole Hill Anthropological Committee, working under the leadership of Surgeon General, Dr. George Garmany, Jr. Dr. Garmany and the committee will be working with Dr. Doug Owsley and his assistant, Kari Bruwelheide, of the Smithsonian. The project has begun by building support. So far, some important organizations supportive to the project are Pilgrim Hall, Jim Baker (historical support), and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce.

The first actionable step will be to use ground penetrating radar to determine where bones are located. Excavations would take place next. Then forensic analysis would be next.

They anticipate physical problems in the area because it has been built on, driven over, and disturbed by water. Bones have surfaced from time to time during construction or flooding that were collected, but other bones washed into the harbor. Other possible problems might be legal entanglement with the state of Massachusetts, major federal laws if they find Indian bones, etc.

What knowledge will be gained if the bones are successfully analyzed? Personal identity and cause of death; what county in England they were from; where they were born if teeth enamel is available; and perhaps even facial reconstruction if the skull is found.

The Mayflower Society has hired a management consultant and a consultant for funding, as funding for the project will be a major undertaking.

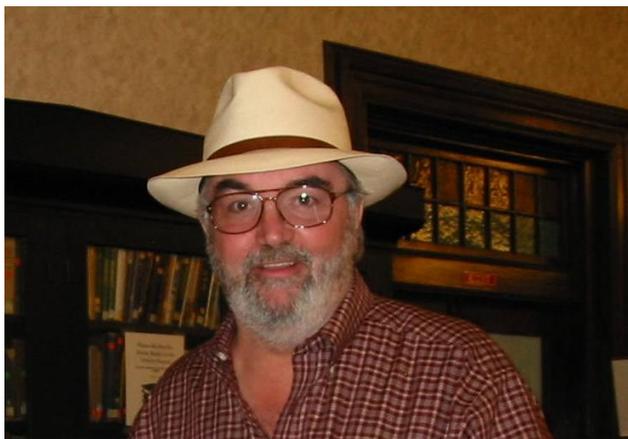
The Smithsonian has been involved in other projects of "Written in Bones". I have attached a link to a website that gives a little more information.

<http://newsdesk.si.edu/releases/written-bone-forensic-files-17th-century-chesapeake-opens-feb-7-smithsonian-s-national-mus-0>

Also, at the Board of Assistants meeting and at the Saturday evening banquet, The Pilgrim William White Society was announced to everyone attending (including Governor General Bruce MacGunnigle) and received a nice applause and congratulations.

## LEGAL “STUFF” FROM THE EDITOR

**T**HE PILGRIM WILLIAM WHITE SOCIETY NEWS is the official newsletter and the copyrighted property (© 2013 — all rights reserved) of The Pilgrim William White Society, Inc. (“TPWWS”), a Texas nonprofit membership corporation which is in the process of applying to the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) for recognition as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) educational & patriotic organization. It is published four times a year at the end of January, April, July and October. Please send submissions, comments or suggestions to the Editor at his postal or email address below. Items submitted for publication must be received by the 15th of the month of publication and may be shortened or otherwise edited and published at the Editor’s discretion. Photos should be in jpg format, be taken using the highest resolution setting on your camera, and be accompanied by identification of all persons depicted so an appropriate caption can be included. State Mayflower societies have permission to reprint any material with appropriate attribution. All others must obtain prior written permission from the Editor.



Richard S. Wheeler  
26 Forest Lane  
Eustis, FL 32726  
[richardwheeler26@comcast.net](mailto:richardwheeler26@comcast.net)

Richard is an 11th generation descendant of William and Susanna White through their son Resolved, whose daughter Elizabeth married Obadiah Wheeler (1650-1696) on 17 July 1672 in Concord, MA. For the past 41 years, he’s practiced corporate, tax and estate planning law in NY, DC and FL. He’s active in the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida (FSMD), serving as governor of the Richard Warren Colony, as editor of the FSMD newsletter The Florida Pilgrim, and as FSMD Counsellor and PR Chair. He lives in Lake County with his partner Barbara Sovereign (a descendant of John Alden) and their two shih-tzus, Beau and Tessa. He has two grown sons and two teenage grandsons. Richard and his brother Jon have co-authored and published six books on their family’s genealogy.

### ORGANIZING OFFICERS

#### GOVERNOR

Prarie Counce  
Carrollton, TX  
[prariec@me.com](mailto:prariec@me.com)

#### DEPUTY GOVERNOR

Jim Fowler  
Severna Park, MD  
[Mayflower383@verizon.net](mailto:Mayflower383@verizon.net)

#### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Susie Wuest  
Boca Raton, FL  
[swuest@aol.com](mailto:swuest@aol.com)

#### RECORDING SECRETARY

Leah Davis  
Conroe, TX  
[ldavis@consolidated.net](mailto:ldavis@consolidated.net)

#### TREASURER

J. Benese Scherrer  
N. Las Vegas, NV  
[jbscherrer@yahoo.com](mailto:jbscherrer@yahoo.com)

#### HISTORIAN

Barbara Williams  
Chester, SC  
[gsmdhistoricsites@gmail.com](mailto:gsmdhistoricsites@gmail.com)

#### ELDER

D. Alan Smith  
Mesena, GA  
[das1842@icloud.com](mailto:das1842@icloud.com)