



Society News

THE PILGRIM WILLIAM WHITE SOCIETY

AN ENDORSED FAMILY SOCIETY
OF THE GENERAL SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

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Message from the Governor

Dear Cousins,

Our family society has gained five new members since November bringing total lineage membership to 185. Welcome aboard! It was very nice to end 2022 on a high note. We have a couple of exciting things to look forward to this year. Marshfield Historical Society is planning a book launch for the Resolved biography in May. Stephen O'Neill did a wonderful job researching and penning the Peregrine book. It is amazing so much detail and perspective can be packed in a biography from seemingly scant historical records to glean from. The date for the TPWWS Triennial meeting has been set for Monday September 11, 2023 at Hotel 1620 in Plymouth. More information will be posted in the April and July newsletters and on the website.

Our fellow cousin David Grinnell has retired from his position as Treasurer. David did an outstanding job not only with his keen financial oversight, but also helping others. I would like to thank David for his exemplary service to the society and its mission and wish him all the best in retirement. The Board of Directors has appointed Susie Wuest to serve as Treasurer for the remainder of the term.

TPWWS was established as a nonprofit organization in the state of Texas on March 6, 2013. Thank you to all our members and friends for your continued support as we head into our 10th year.

Patrick



Governor Patrick White

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A Tour of Wisbech, St. Peter's

By Cousin Alan Smith

Wisbech, St Peter's, is in the northeast farther most part of Cambridgeshire, borders Norfolk. and is close to Lincolnshire. It is an ancient Fenland port on the Nene River about 40 miles north of Cambridge and 11 miles upriver from the mouth in The Wash. The Fens covered much of the original long, narrow parish prior to their drainage.

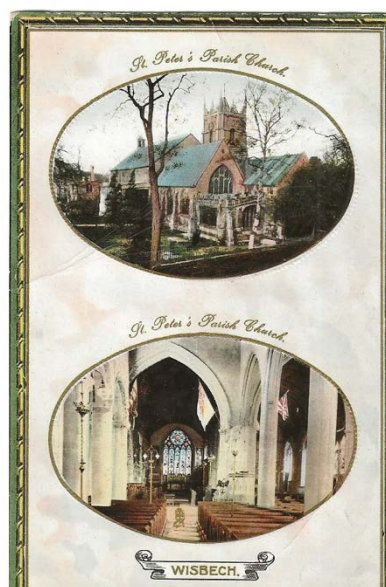
The present town of Wisbech, St. Peter's does not look anything like the town of William and his family. Wisbech, St. Peter's had about 1,500 inhabitants in 1600. The nearby town Wisbech, St. Mary's was a little smaller. This 1900 postcard is one of the few sights that William would have known. The open gutter running down street was a prominent feature of Medieval towns.



William's great grandfather John Cross was born say 1490 and died in 1534. He was one of one the wealthiest men in the parish. He signed the charter establishing Wisbech as a town and served as a sub-constable. His great-grandmother Katherine (–) (Cross) Wynde paid £4 towards finishing St. Peter's steeple. Therefore, the steeple we see was paid in part our heritage. William's

parents were Edward and Thomasine (Cross) (May) White. Thomasine had previously married John May. Henry and Jacomine May were his half-brother and sister. Thus, William was uncle to Dorothy May Bradford and so related by marriage to William Bradford.

During the plague outbreak in 1585, Edward was one of the ten men charged with the cleanliness of their ward and the maintenance of their quarantine section.

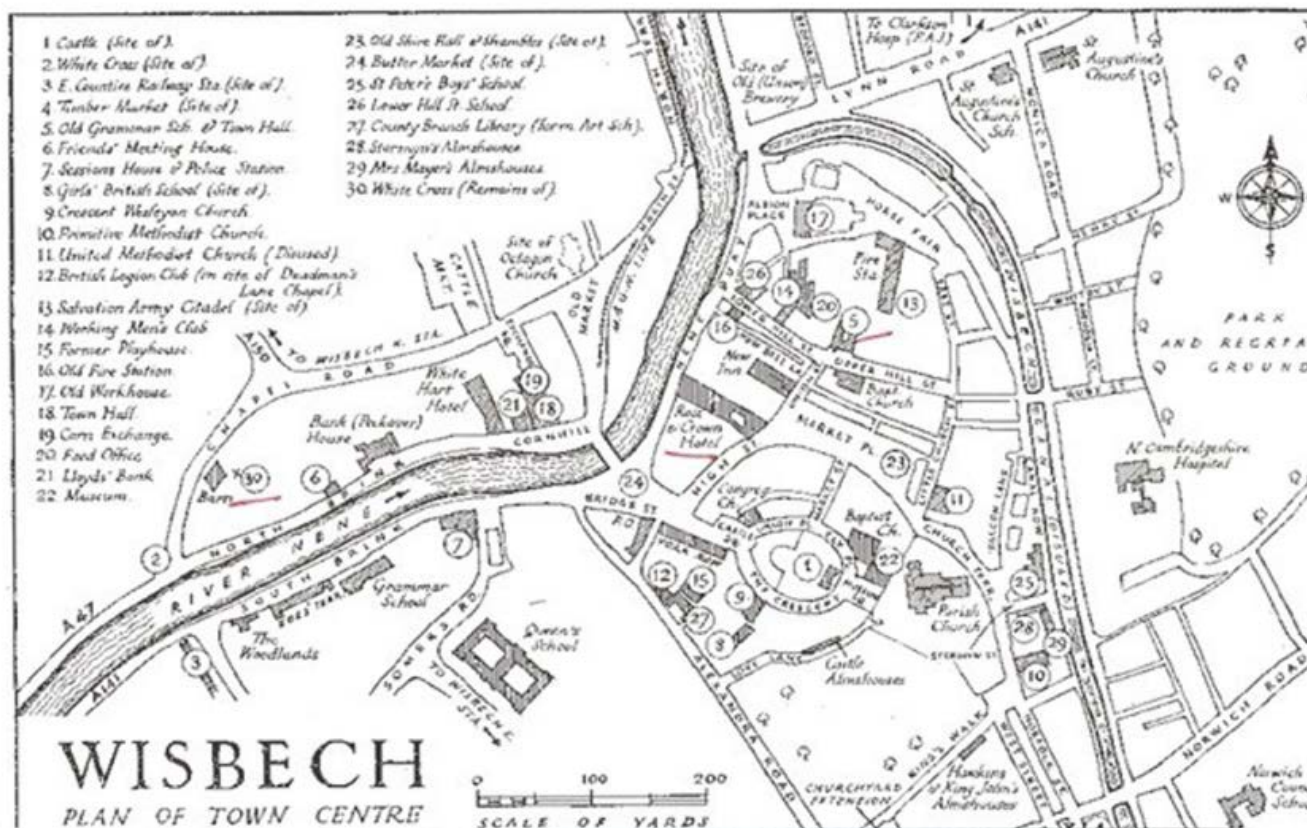


Edward's section was the White Cross Ward. William was baptized on 25 January 1586/87 at St. Peter and St. Paul Church. Since Edward was styled as gentleman, his status reflected on William. Providing one reason William was styled as

Mister in Bradford's *Of Plimoth Plantation* (Johnson, Allan and Neal, TAG, v. 89).

Sue Allan's latest research shows that he was a shoemaker. He had to flee Wisbech when accused of being "negligent in coming to divine service" and being "a favourer of the sort of Brownists." William and his half siblings had left by the time of their formal excommunication on 4 June 1608, which were posted on the church doors. He had already arrived in in Amsterdam in May of 1608. Henry and probably his sister Jacomine and his children arrived in August of 1608. (Allan, Johnson, Neal, The NEHG Register. v. 175, p. 103f).

William would have known the Rose and Crown inn, town hall, and the houses

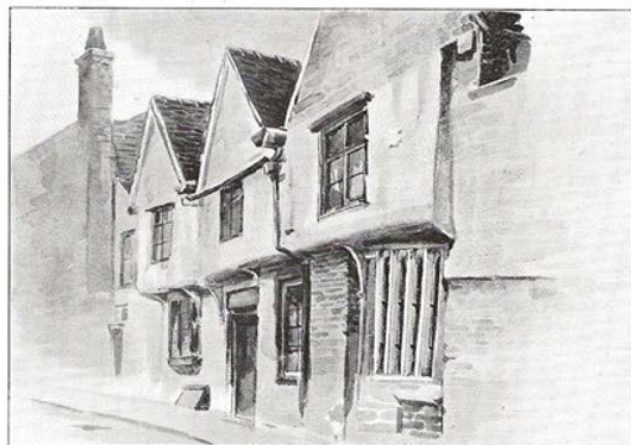


Reproduced with permission from A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 4, City of Ely; Ely, N. and S. Witchford and Wisbech Hundreds. Victoria County History, copyright University of London

in the market mew. These locations are found on the map. The town hall later served as the old grammar school. Before being the town hall, it had been the Holy Trinity Guild Hall which dated from the 15th century. The houses in the market mews are also very early and do not appear to have survived. The Rose and Crown Inn dates from 1601 but is unrecognizable in its present form. We are fortunate to have the pictures from 1899 to show us part of William's world. Underlined in red are the White Cross Ward (30) near the remains of the preaching cross, the Rose and Crown Inn and the old grammar school (5). St. Peter's and St. Paul's Church is next to number 22.

The picture below shows the houses in the market mews, which closely resembles the

postcard at the beginning of this article

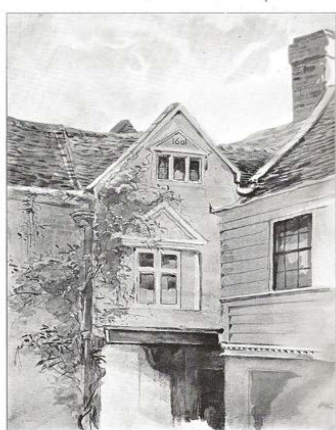


OLD HOUSES IN MARKET MEWS, WISBECH.

The pictures below left to right show the old grammar school (original Holy Trinity Guild Hall) and the Rose and Crown Inn, 1601. (From *Homes and Haunts of the Pilgrim Fathers*, c. 1899 Alexander MacInkennal).



THE RELIEF, GRAMMAR SCHOOL, WISBECH.



THE ROSE AND CROWN INN, WISBECH.

While we cannot visit Wisbech of the late fifteen century, we are fortunate to have these pictures and more current information to present a rough copy of that world.

More Vassal

By Cousin Fred Voss

Just opened the [October] newsletter and began reading the article on the Vassalls. John Vassall (1544-1625) was Judith's father. He was in fact her grandfather. Judith Vassall was the daughter of John's son, William Vassall



Armada Monument



rewarded him for his service on that occasion with a grant of arms, and if my memory serves, I think his name is

(1592-1655). His Huguenot father John had fled France and was well settled in England by sometime in the 1560s. In 1588, John supplied and commanded two ships that were part of the British force that defeated the Spanish Armada. Queen Elizabeth I

inscribed on an Armada monument which is either in Plymouth, England. Judith's actual father William earned a certain measure of short-lived fame of his own when he locked horns with John Winthrop in the mid 1640s over Winthrop's autocratic ways in the Massachusetts Bay Colony and in late 1646, after being roundly denounced from the pulpit by Winthrop's ally the Reverend John Cotton, he left for England to lodge complaints against Winthrop's autocracy with the powers that be. Parliament ultimately sided with Winthrop and William Vassall went to Barbados where he planted the seeds of a dynasty that was soon reaping substantial fortunes in nearby Jamaica from their large sugar plantations and trading in slaves.

You might be interested in knowing that among our distant Vassall cousins is a genuine, convicted KGB spy (also named John Vassall) who was sentenced in 1962 to 18 years in prison. On the up side, also among our Vassall cousins is Elizabeth Vassall-Fox who was married to the 3rd Baron Holland and in the 1830s and 40s was a leading Whig hostess of her day. Finally, allow me to throw in the fact that Washington's headquarters when he was in Boston in 1775/76 were located in the grand home of another of our Vassall cousins (who was a loyalist and had fled to England) in nearby Cambridge. The house was later occupied by no less than William Wadsworth Longfellow and is a museum today.

Enough! I could go on forever about the Vassalls. They really are an interesting lot.

The Thanksgiving Proclamation

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties,

which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all



nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and

navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battlefield; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in

foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President:
Abraham Lincoln

Fun with ChapGPT AI

By Cousin Ann Wilkerson

I was trying to get ChapGPT to write an article about Stephen Hopkins for the Illinois Society. ChaptGPT, which is an artificial intelligence website, kept giving me wrong info that Hopkins was a governor.

Out of frustration, I asked it about Peregrine and here is what it said:

Peregrine White was the first English child born in the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts. He was born on the Mayflower, the ship that brought the



Pilgrims to the New World in 1620, while the ship was anchored off the coast of Massachusetts. White's parents, William and Susanna White, were among the passengers on the Mayflower, and Peregrine was born just a few weeks after the ship arrived in the New World. He is known for being the first English child born in the colony, and his birth is seen as an important event in the early history of the Plymouth Colony.

Perfect! So, I asked about Resolved and got this:

I'm sorry, but I am unable to find any information about a person named Resolved White. It is possible that you have misspelled the name or that there is not enough information available about this person to determine who they were. Could you provide more context or information about Resolved White?

Sorry cousins, AI didn't know Resolved. Then for Susanna:

Susanna White was a passenger on the Mayflower, the ship that brought the Pilgrims to the New World in 1620. She was the wife of William White and the mother of Peregrine White, who was the first English child born in the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts. Susanna White is known for her role in the early history of the Plymouth Colony, and she is remembered as one of the brave and determined women who helped to establish the colony and build a new life in the New World.

That gets a C- since there was no mention of her life after William. A final attempt with William. I give it an F. He didn't play much of a role as he died. I think ChapGTP is telling me what I want to hear.

William White was one of the passengers on the Mayflower, the ship that brought the Pilgrims to the New World in 1620. He was a member of the Separatist community in England and was among the group of people who sailed on the Mayflower to establish a new settlement in the New World. White was married to Susanna White, and their son, Peregrine White, was the first English child born in the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts. William White played a key role in the early development of the Plymouth Colony, and he is remembered as one of the founding fathers of the colony.

Grant Promoted

Ulysses S. Grant's 200th birthday was in 2022. His many admirers got congress to promote him to *General of the Armies of the United States* the Army's highest rank.

Congress first established the grade *General of the Armies of the United States* in

1799 as the highest rank in the U.S. Army. However, then-President John Adams refused to appoint anyone to the position because the U.S. was not at war. The grade was dissolved in 1802, when Congress passed the Military Peace



Establishment Act without reference to the grade. In 1866, Congress established the grade of *General of the Army of the United States* as the highest rank in the U.S. Army, and Grant was immediately appointed to the position. In 1919, Congress authorized the president to appoint John Pershing to the grade of *General of the Armies of the United States* for his role in commanding military forces during World War I. Significant confusion arose between the previously established *General of the Army* (the position Grant held) and *General of the Armies* (the position created in 1799, then re-established in 1919). In 1976, Congress clarified that *General of the Armies of the United States* is the highest rank in the U.S. Army when it posthumously promoted George Washington to the grade in honor of the nation's bicentennial. The Ulysses S. Grant Bicentennial Recognition Act promoted Grant to the same rank as George Washington. (From the Grant Monument Association website)

Maranville Connection

By Cousin James Dodge

It was a pleasure to read the article *Happenstance* by Jeffrey Carey in the October issue. Like Jeffrey, I am related to Louis De Maranville, born in Paris, France and died in Dartmouth MA before 1773. Louis married Susanna Crapo, b. 5 Nov 1707, daughter of Peter Crapo and Penelope White Crapo in 1730 in Rochester, MA.

There is a book titled De Maranville Genealogy published by Mercury Publishing Company of New Bedford, MA in 1921. It was compiled by George L. Randall and is a good source for this family. It can be searched and read on line.

My Lineage goes thru Louis De Maranville Jr., who was a veteran of the Revolution serving in th Dartmouth Militia for Freetown. His unit marched to the Lexington Alarm. Later he joined the terrible winter at Valley Forge then marched again to Monmouth Courthouse. He lost both arms in battle and returned to Freetown to hare hooks fashioned so that he could hoe his field. He died at age 110, just like his father!

Final Pilgrimage

Jeanne Wheeler Corbett Wagner

Petermann, age 100, of Plymouth passed away peacefully on May 13, 2022, the day after her 100th birthday. She was born on May 12, 1922 in Plymouth, WI, a daughter of the late Carl and Edna (Wheeler) Corbett. She was a granddaughter of two pioneer families, (Henry Wheeler and Charles Corbett) from Sheboygan area in the early 1850's. Jeanne attended Plymouth Public Grade School and graduated from Plymouth High School in 1940. She also is a graduate of Prospect Hall in Milwaukee. On September 15, 1945 she married Al Wagner in Elkhart Lake. Al died in an auto accident on April 8, 1951. On June 5, 1953 she married Hans W. Petermann in Elkhart Lake. The couple lived in Plymouth (Crystal Lake) area since 1950. Hans preceded her in death.

Jeanne was self-employed as an antique and estate jeweler known as "Jewels by Jeanne" for 30 years. She was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Plymouth serving on vestry committee.

Jeanne was proud of her American Heritage and was a member of the Mayflower Society of America, Colonial Dames, Daughter of Civil War and Plymouth



Daughters of American Revolution of which she has been a member since 1950, serving as past regent. She was a member of Quit Qui Oc Golf League, Crystal Lake Women's Golf League, Crystal Lake Advancement Association for 55 years, Plymouth

Women's Club and Elkhart Lake Study Club. She was a charter member of the Plymouth Dance Club for 35 years, Red Hats, Plymouth Ski Club and Plymouth Gourmet Club for 30 years. She was also a member of the Wisconsin Antique Dealer Association and Northern Antique Dealers Association. Her hobbies included skiing, golfing, sailing and gourmet cooking of which she loved to have parties and cook to entertain all of the young people at G-Ma's on Crystal Lake -- everyone was always welcome.

Survivors include a son: Dr. William J. (Sue) Wagner of Plymouth, two daughters: Elizabeth Abler of Plymouth and Pamela (Mike) Peppe of Sebastian, FL., one granddaughter: Anne (Scott) Reilly, one grandson: Luke (Gina) Abler, three great-grandchildren: Josie and Dylan Abler and Makayla Reilly, two nieces: Mary K. Corbett and Helen Joseph and one nephew, Richard J. Halls. She was also survived by other relatives and many friends.

Welcome New Members

Holley Robinson Izard -- Resolved

Terri Lynn Peterson Brewster-- Resolved

Ralph H. Perkins -- Resolved

Robyn Rae Miller Morgan -- Resolved

Marsha Joyce Adams -- Resolved

Letters to the Editor

Hello Cousin Michael,

Thank you, Mike, for the newsletter. It is wonderful to find so much information specific to my lineage. I enjoyed Sharon Penner's article "Pardon my French" but would make a small correction. John Vassall was Judith Vassall White's grandfather. His son, William, was her father. William was an interesting character and is well documented by Robert Charles Anderson's *The Great Migration Begins*, Vol. III. I documented the Vassall lineage for Jamestowne Society this past September.

Cousin Holley R. Izard

Hello Cousin Mike,

Thanks for the cute cartoon. Sorry I have no pictures nor news for the Newsletter, which I always enjoy receiving, but MERRY

CHRISTMAS to all and to all a good New Year!

Cousin Marylen Jackson.

Hello Cousin Michael,

I would like to share that I recently read the new book by Toni Kief: *Saints, Strangers and Rosehip Tea*. Being a descendant of William and Susannah White, it really gave me a feel for what their lives may have been like around the time of the sailing to America. It's realistic fiction (as none of us can ever really know exactly) but told in first person. I really feel Toni came pretty close to what it must have been like. I would recommend everyone would learn more about their ancestors by reading this wonderful book.

Cousin Linda Cox Smith

Hello Cousin Mike

This was a very interesting issue for me. I am always interested in things about the Vassal family. I hope someday I can visit "The Pilgrim's Trail" but my husband has Alzheimer's Disease and I am his caregiver. He still lives at home. Maybe when he moves to a care center, I will be free to travel. Until then, these articles help satisfy my curiosity. Thanks for the work you are doing on this.

Cousin Linda Rae (Blain) Lind

Cousin Michael,

A fine issue as has become your habit. Thanks for your dedication. Many blessings on you and yours.

Cousin Eileen

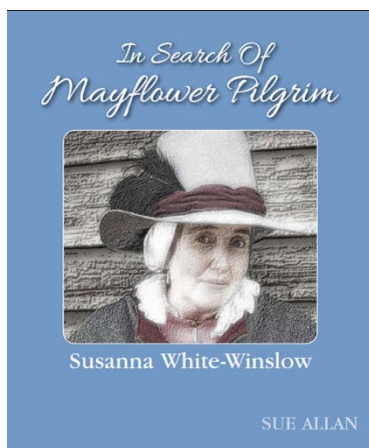
Hi Michael,

I'm not sure who to thank for the beautiful Thanksgiving card? Maybe you could forward this? [Our governor, Patrick White sent them to us]. The card and

magnetic greeting were fantastic! I love them both and have one on our refrigerator. Thank you so much for this beautiful greeting!

Best, Cousin Carol

Your letter here – in the April newsletter!

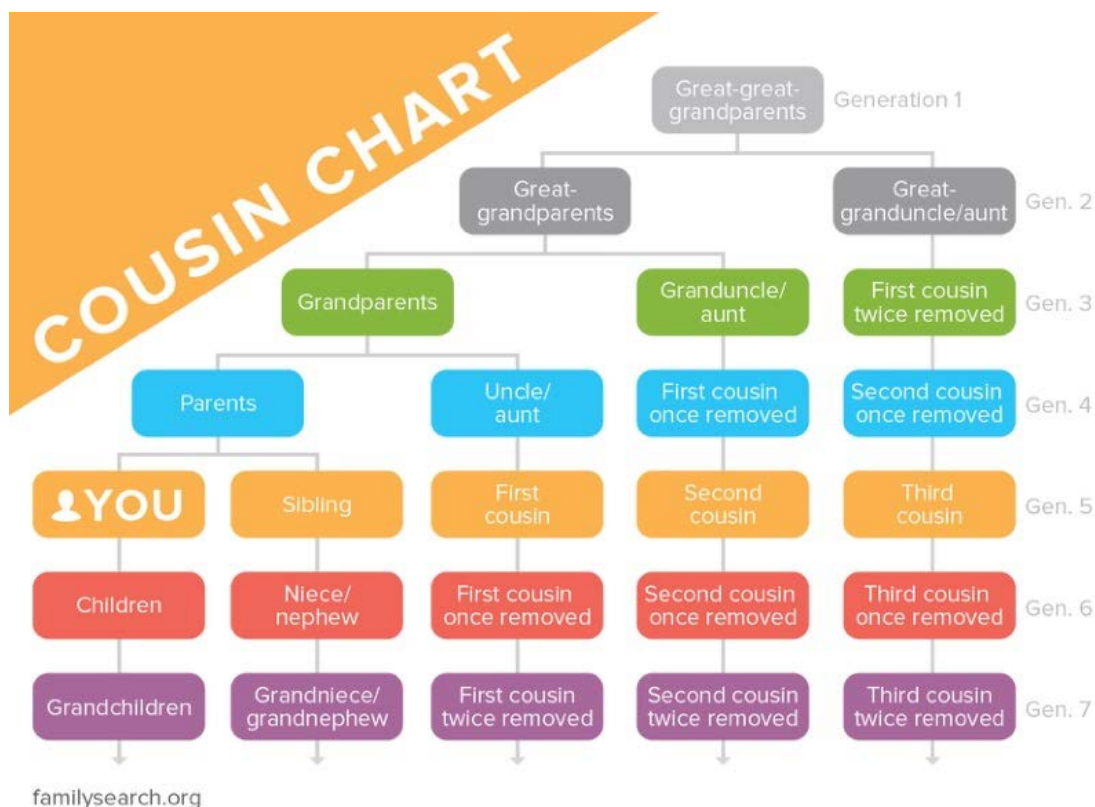


www.mayflowermaid.com

2023 dues are due. The amount remains the same at \$15.00.

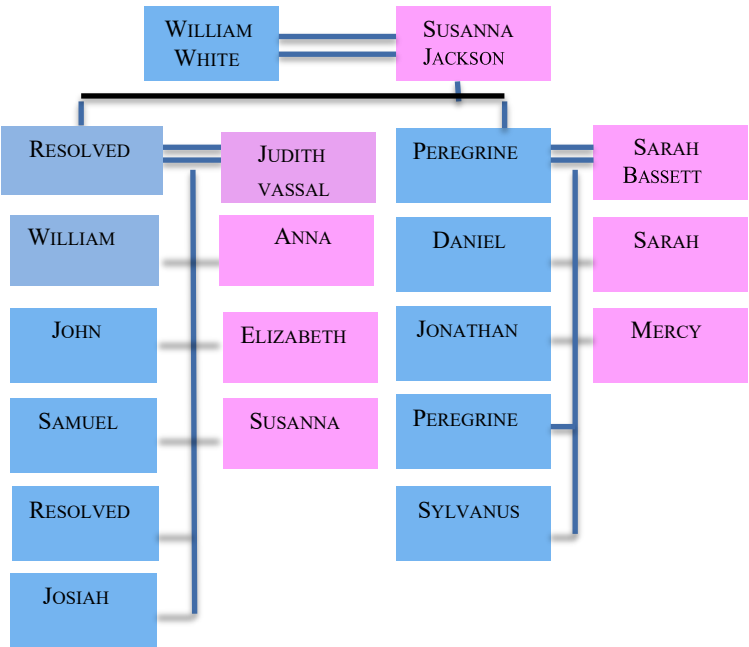
Please make your check payable to: TPWWS and mail to:

**Susie Wuest, Treasurer
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Boca Raton, FL 33428-4811**



THE PILGRIM WILLIAM WHITE SOCIETY

Our Mission: Provide a forum for members to gain information about our common ancestor, William White; to keep our Pilgrim heritage alive; and to promote education in our schools, communities and other societies.



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