



Society News

THE PILGRIM WILLIAM WHITE SOCIETY

AN ENDORSED FAMILY SOCIETY
OF THE GENERAL SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

ESTABLISHED 2013

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Message from the Governor

Dear Cousins,

As we begin 2025, I wanted to congratulate our Pilgrim William White Society members for two important highlights of the last quarter of 2024:

In November we held our first ever scheduled fall family reunion via Zoom. Yes, we have met by Zoom previously during the Covid pandemic, but this was not our regular meeting that we hold every three years in Plymouth. This reunion was an opportunity to greet our family members informally from across the USA. Our Former Governor Alan Smith gave a presentation with many historical illustrations on “Anniversary Celebrations of the Pilgrims’ Landing.” Milestone years, such as the 200th and 350th anniversaries were discussed. Those who participated on that evening call unanimously agreed that we should do this type of reunion during those years that we do not meet in Plymouth. We hope we will reach many more of our cousins and prompt a lively discussion of our shared history again next fall.

Second, we owe a big thank you to our loyal PWWS members who pay dues yearly. Our Society expenses are low (mainly consisting of our website costs), and most of your dues money is therefore available for making year-end contributions to those organizations who continue to tell the story of Pilgrim William White, Susanna Jackson White, Resolved, and Peregrine. After finalizing our year-end balance sheet, Treasurer Susie Wuest recommended a donation total of \$1,200. An anonymous donation of an additional \$100 brought our total gifts to \$1300 - twice the amount that was given in each of 2022 and 2023! A generous donation to the Meeting House project means that we qualified for the GSMD donors’ gift of a



Governor Ann Wilkerson

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beautiful handcrafted tray made from a roofing tile from the 1899 building (see my photo). This tray will be awarded to one of our members in a future contest or raffle to be determined.

And speaking of those round-number milestone years, do you know that the USA will soon celebrate our semiquincentennial? I remember when we celebrated the bicentennial in 1976 with tall ships, bicentennial minutes on CBS, and even a Polynesian canoe journey from Tahiti to Honolulu. To celebrate America 250, we welcome your Patriot to Passenger story in future newsletters - mine is on this page.

All the Best,

Ann

Our Very Own Snow White

by Cousin Judy Letchworth

Fun family story to tell about the naming of my great-granddaughter, Lilah. While doing family history research I discovered that my Burnham lineage had a neat history to relate to Lilah. Lilah's Mom, Tracy, has had a lifelong passion for Disney Snow White movies and stories. Little did we know we had our own story to share?

Maria Louisa Harmon Burnham was born 21 August 1840 in Old Town, Penobscot County, Maine, daughter of William Milliken Burnham and Mary Livermore Bickmore. Maria married Granville Snow who was born about 1838 in Old Town. Their marriage was on 18 August 1861.



Daughter, Lilla (called Lilly) Snow was born in July 1862 in Old Town to William and Maria. In 1881 Lilla married Everett R. White in Michigan. Everett was born 27 January 1855 in Marlboro, Cheshire, New Hampshire, son of Everett E. White and Melissa Heard. Our own Lilla then became **Lilla Snow White**. Propinquity reigns.

I have no other information on Everett White's lineage. Maybe someone in this

Pilgrim William White family is connected and can send me some information to add to my history.

FYI: My Pilgrim William White lineage is: William, Resolved, Samuel, Penelope who married Peter Crapo, John Crapo, Joshua Crapo, Celia Crapo (married John Butts), Mary Butts (married Jacob Sweatt), Martha Eldora Sweatt (married Fred Jewett Whiting), Ralph Lee Whiting, Ruth Janice Whiting . . . and me, daughter of Edwin H. Phelps, Sr.

America 250: Celebrating our Patriot to Passenger Connections.

As noted in the Governor's message, this is a first in a series of stories about our Revolutionary Patriot Ancestors. We look forward to hearing from you about your Ancestor.

Dr. Robert R. Henry

By Cousin Ann Wilkerson

My Patriot to *Mayflower* Passenger is Dr. Robert R. Henry, whose wife was a descendant of six Mayflower Passengers: William, Susannah, and Peregrine White, Francis and John Cooke, and Richard Warren.



*W.R. Wilkerson, WWII
Vet and family
genealogist*

In the days before online research, my father W.R. Wilkerson traveled to courthouses, cemeteries, and the National Archives to discover our family's roots. He knew his grandmother's maiden name was Henry, and he speculated how we might be connected to that other Henry: Patrick, famous for his "Give me liberty" speech, but that speculation only led to a dead end.

But my father also had a goal of documenting each generation and joining the Sons of the American Revolution. His persistent research led him from his grandmother, Mary Susan Henry, to her great grandfather Dr. Robert R. Henry.

Finding Dr. Henry was a source of pride to my father. Dr. Henry might not have made speeches, but he graduated from Princeton in 1776. He was commissioned in the Continental Army as a Surgeon's Mate and saw service at the Battle of Brandywine and in the hospitals at Morristown, NJ and Danbury, CT. On the New York-Connecticut border in 1780, he was wounded and held briefly as a prisoner of war after a skirmish on the Croton River. In that year, he married Mary Hilliard, daughter of Isaac and Sarah (White) Hilliard. The wedding took place at the Army Headquarters in Danbury where he was stationed.

Early in 1781, Dr. Henry transferred to the 1st New Hampshire Regiment. After the war, he returned to New Jersey and farmed and practiced medicine for the remainder of his life. Dr. Henry died 27 December 1805, survived by his wife and nine of his ten children. His estate was worth an estimated \$2,489 and included one slave, an 18-day clock, a "Dokter" book, and a medicine shop.

Reaching back to the Revolution satisfied my father's curiosity, and he

stopped his research at this generation. It was the 1970's, and Americans were focused on the Bicentennial observances. It was 40 years later that I, as a newly-retired airline manager, could sit down at my laptop, using my fingers to do the walking, and find the *Mayflower* origins of Dr. Henry's wife, Mary Hilliard. During Thanksgiving week of 2015, I was on ancestry.com and looking at these ancestors when I began to see names illustrated with a "Mayflower Descendant" marker. I was astonished to follow these notations that had plenty of records proving that indeed, descendants of Dr. Robert Henry and his wife Mary Hilliard are part of the *Mayflower* family.

That is the story of finding my Patriot to Passenger connection. I wish my father had known about his Plymouth ancestors before he died in 2013 at the age of 98. If he had not started the search for his Revolutionary Patriot, I might not be writing this today for the Pilgrim William White Society. Thank you, Daddy, for paving the way.

Patriot to Passenger

Dr. Robert R. Henry and his wife Mary Hilliard appear on the **Patriot to Passenger** list on the Mayflower Society website: <https://themayflowersociety.org> under the Research Tab.

The Patriot to Passenger is a growing published list of Revolutionary War Patriots who descend from *Mayflower* passengers. The intent is to build a bridge between lineage societies. Many *Mayflower* Society members are also members of other lineage societies.

The **Patriots to Passenger Project** is a way to help others discover their link to a *Mayflower* passenger and benefits existing members with possible discovery of additional *Mayflower* lines of descent they can then submit as supplemental

applications.

Wary of the Past

By Sue Allan

It can be disheartening, not to say frustrating when, despite best efforts, new and closely scrutinized and verified Pilgrim research is over-looked by some in favor of something published more than a hundred years ago. Well, if its old it has to be right.

Right?

When researching, I find it best to approach my chosen subject anew. and with a blank page and an open mind. Having said this, I also like to look over all research that has been carried out in the past, and then consider for myself the merits, and pitfalls, especially of that which has since been discredited.

However, to lay the lingering ghosts of dubious past works to rest is difficult, especially so, as while exploring their own family trees, many *Mayflower* descendants have unwittingly unearthed them – from a faked family Bible, to fictional wills and falsified family trees. Then, having done so, go on to innocently share those, like treasured heirlooms, with other family researchers - thus breathing new life into fallen bodies of work.

Therefore, in my upcoming book, *In Search of Mayflower Pilgrim William White*, I shall highlight as much of this misinformation as I can, so that William White's descendants may see, for themselves, exactly why some past research has since been so soundly dismissed, and why mine and Caleb Johnson's new research and identification of this Pilgrim's genealogical roots is indisputable.

TPWWS Records

By Prarie Counce

I Recently contacted the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) to find a

proper place for our Society's records. I sent the GSMD the letter below, they have responded and agree to house our record in the GSMD Library.

As Organizing Governor of The Pilgrim William White Society, I am in the process of writing a brief history of The Pilgrim William White Society to document the beginning and the evolution of the Society for future generations. We are looking for an appropriate place to archive the document.

Our first choice for archival is the General Society of Mayflower Descendants library. The reason for choosing GSMD is the multi-faceted relationship we share with GSMD.

- All of our members are GSMD members. Per our bylaws that I have attached, *Article VI: Members, Section 2. Member. "Member is a person: (a) who is descended from Pilgrims William and Susanna White of the Mayflower, through either of their two sons, Resolved or Peregrine; (b) who has approved lineage papers by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants Historian General; and (c) who is a member in good standing with his or her State Mayflower Society (current dues are paid.)"* (We have a "Friend" category of membership but per our bylaws they may not vote nor hold office.)
- I believe The Pilgrim William White Society was the first (if not first, one of the first) family societies to partnership with GSMD in the Family Society program.
- Our physical meetings are held tri-annually at the same time of Congress in Plymouth.
- In 2020, The Pilgrim William White Society amended the bylaws to name The General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Plymouth, MA, as beneficiary upon dissolution of the Society. *Article X: Dissolution. "Upon the dissolution of the Society, its net assets remaining after payment of all its debts and obligations shall be gifted to The General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Plymouth, MA, to support research and publication of authoritative biographical, genealogical and historical information relating to Pilgrims*

William and Susanna White, their sons Resolved and Peregrine, and all their descendants."

TPWWS 2024 Contributions

In 2024, The Pilgrim William White Society donated to these organizations that contribute to, and tell the story of our ancestors, William White, Susanna Jackson White, Resolved, and Peregrine:

GSMD Family Society Dues: \$250 (fixed amount each year)

GSMD Meeting House Project: \$600

Westport Historical Society \$100

Plimoth-Patuxet Museum: \$200

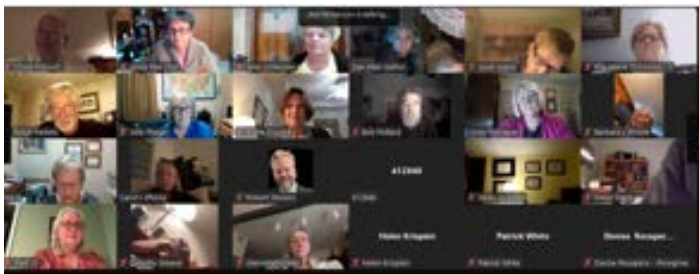
Pilgrim hall Museum: \$150

TOTAL: \$1300

Thanks to our cousin members' dues, we have doubled our giving this year!

Society Zoom Meeting

The Society met via Zoom in November.



Those attending decided it was a good way to meet in the two years between our triennial Plymouth meeting. So, plan on a repeat this Fall.

Our Great Friend, **Sue Allan** attended ignoring the time difference. She posted on her FaceBook page: "Had a really enjoyable meet up on Zoom with members of the Pilgrim William White Society in the wee small hours this morning, Such a lovely bunch of people as you could hope to meet 😊 So, if you are a White descendant, what are you waiting for? Why not join them too!"

Cousin and Past Governor **Alan Smith** gave a presentation which follows:

Celebrating the Pilgrims Looking Back

The view of the history of the Pilgrims in America is really interesting and complicated. We sometimes look back at the past with great nostalgia. But this is nothing new; even Socrates viewed the past as more glorious than real. "The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise." But in one area the present is so much better than the past, at least more accurate. We now have a much clearer picture of the Pilgrim world and dress. Having said this, I would like to lift up several key events in the commemorations of our family's story accurate or not.

While there had been may annual celebrations of Forefathers' Day notably in 1820 for the Bicentennial in which Forefather's Day speech, Daniel Webster, an up and coming pollical leader, gave us a new name.

"We have come to this Rock to record here our homage for our Pilgrim Fathers; our sympathy in their sufferings;

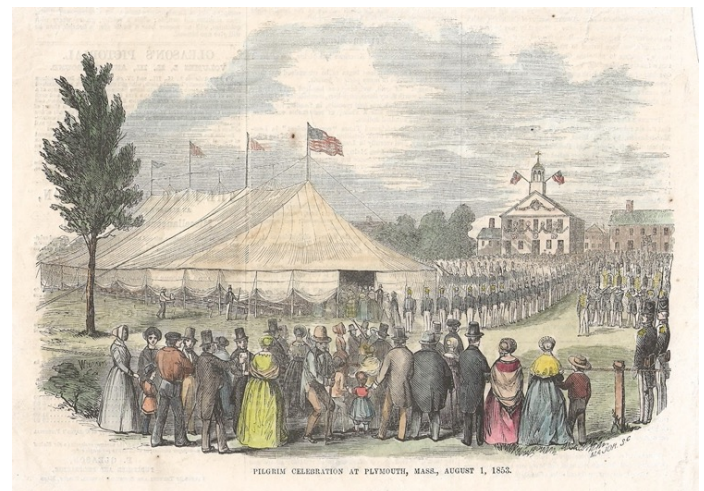
our gratitude for their labors;
 our admiration of their virtues;
 our veneration for their piety;
 and our attachment to those
 principles of civil and religious
 liberty, which they encountered
 the dangers of the ocean, the
 storms of heaven, the violence
 of savages, disease, exile, and
 famine, to enjoy and to
 establish.”

The name stuck for years and is still the most common name in the UK. I have a copy of a sermon by the Reverend Gardiner Spring delivered to the New England Society of New York on December 22, 1820. I will not read it to you; just know that it is really long. But, the first major commemoration was in 1853 in Plymouth. The year before Provincetown had a major celebration which really galled the good people of Plymouth. So, for parity they pulled out every stop possible to have their own. Among my collection of Pilgrim books, I have a 182-page book printed in 1853 entitled *An Account of the Pilgrim Celebration at Plymouth August 1, 1853*. It gives a blow-by-blow description of the planning, the invitees from every state and the national leaders, the speeches, and toasts. Every house along the parade route is described as to the type of bunting, flags, plantings and arches. On North Street (quoting from the book, p.3) “From the house of Abraham Jackson to Mrs. Barnes’, there was erected a splendid arch composed wholly of green trees with this inscription “ John Robinson - The Keystone of the Pilgrim Arch. Shamelessly lifting up our family, the next entry reads , “ Mrs. Joann Davis, a lineal descendant of Peregrine White, the first person of European parentage born on these shore, had her residence decorated in good taste; on a handsome arch was inscribed: - “White” (pp. 3-4) There were numerous busts of Daniel Webster and references to his work in the Compromise of 1850 “to

preserve the Union.” Webster is buried in Marshfield in the same cemetery as our White and Winslow family.

Fortunately, no modern politician can compete with the flowery language or length of the speeches. The invocation itself in the opening worship service at First Parish Church was four pages long. As a considerate person and minister, I will spare you from hearing it.

I will show a contemporary print of the tent where the meal and speeches occurred. The tent was large enough to accommodate 2,500 people. In the background is the old Court House.



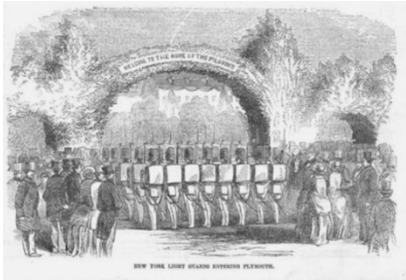
Other newspaper prints give an idea of the scale.

Note the size of the exposed Plymouth Rock

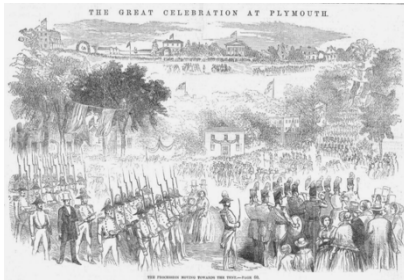
The soldiers in the prints were the New York Light Guard which accompanied the members of the New England Society of NY. They in turn were accompanied by the Standish Guard, the Abington



Artillery, the Samoset Guards and the Halifax Light Infantry.



Among the many dignitaries invited were five leaders from Charleston, SC. Three of them were Huguenot descendants, and one would later actively oppose SC Secession. He had earlier fought against Nullification. Huguenots remembered only too well their persecution.



The next big celebration was the Pilgrim Jubilee in 1870. I don't have any pictures of these events. But the following NY Times news article, reprinted in the *Tennessean*, outlines the events to be celebrated by the Congregational churches.

First, there were to be two general assemblies: one in Chicago and the other in Plymouth. The key dates to be commemorated were as follows:

May 1st- the 261st anniversary of John Robinson' and his congregation settling in Leyden

July 21st- 250 anniversary of the departure from Leyden

September 16-18th- the very near 250 anniversary of the final departure for America.

December 21st- the 250 anniversary of the Landing of the Pilgrims at Plimouth.

"The first and third of these anniversaries dates would be observed by the churches in hearing appropriate discourses from their respective pastors. And by a free will offering for the promotion the great objects for which the Pilgrims

suffered and labored. On the second (the 21st of July) it is proposed to have a National Convention at Chicago; on the 21st of December, a general meeting in Plymouth."

The most visible symbol of this Jubilee are the first commemorative coins.



The Monument of the Forefathers is a project that ranged over a number of years and is not actually a part of this celebration, but is often linked to it. 1820 was the date when first

considered, and the actual planning began in 1850. The Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts laid the cornerstone on August 2, 1859, but it was not completed until October 1888 and was dedicated on August 1, 1889. It was originally designed by Hammatt Billings but modified after his death in 1874.



At the same time Billings designed the Monument he designed the Cover the Rock. The Pilgrim Society bought the Rock in 1859 and the bit of wharf where it was located. Like the Monument of the Forefathers, the Civil War delayed construction but it was eventually finished in 1867 in time for the

350th anniversary.

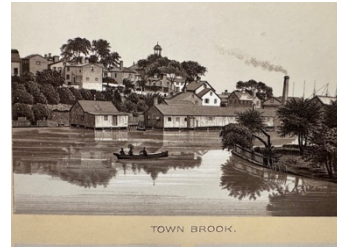
I said earlier that Plymouth pulled out all the stops. In 1921 it was a production of hundreds. The writer and director was George P. Baker, and English lit professor at Harvard and later founding dean of the Yale

Drama School. There were portrayals of every event even loosely connected with the Pilgrims ranging from Thorwald and the Vikings to Champlain. At least James's Royal Progress connected. In the scene set at Scrooby, there were 73 women, 72 men, 21 boys and 31 girls. This number is far more than actual number of people living in Scrooby. The pageant was presented on July 13-16, July 30- August 3, August 10-13. The parade on August 1st had marines and sailors and the Independent Order of Odd Fellow in white suits and matching hats. Among the floats were the Marshfield descendants of Gov. Winslow, who won for best historical float. The horse drawn float of the Landing of the Pilgrims came in 2nd. My personal favorite is the float The First House in Halifax featuring a Pilgrim woman and an Indian in front of a log cabin. My other favorite closely follows, The First Treaty of Carver and Massasoit in a cut away log cabin. Other floats were sponsored by Sao Gabriel Portuguese National Society of Plymouth and the Knights of Columbus featuring Columbus before Isabella. There was an abundance of songs and music. William White has several lines during the Compact Signing, "For my wife Susannah White, my son and two man servants." That's his total contribution.

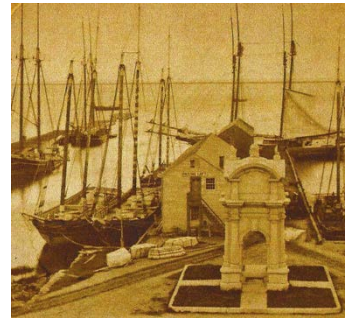
The biggest impact of the Tercentenary was the major changes to Plymouth itself. It went from an industrial, shipping and fishing world to the Plymouth that we now see. I will list the changes and additions.

By far, the biggest changes were the removal of the water front and removal of the industries along Town Brook. The Billings Canopy over the Rock itself was removed; most of its pieces are missing. The new Canopy was not ready in time for the festivities of 1921.

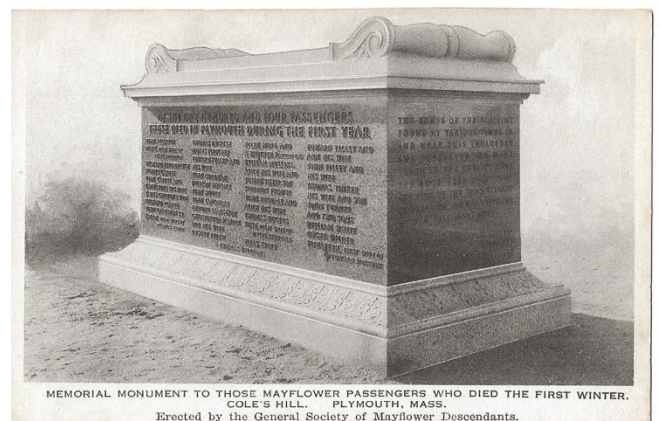
To give a sense of the scale of the changes. I have two pictures before and after postcards of Town Brook.



Here are pictures of the water front



Next to the new Canopy over the Rock, the Cenotaph was the most famous and most important to us as Mayflower Descendants especially the descendants of William White, whose bones may lie here.



The exhaustive list of the monuments erected in Plymouth to mark the Tercentenary follow:

Tercentenary Monuments in Plymouth

Cole's Hill

Granite Bench	PA Society of New England Women
Granite Bench	Society of Daughters of Colonial Wars
Sarcophagus	General Society of Mayflower Descendants
Massasoit Statue	Improved Order of Red Men

Brewster Garden

Pilgrim Maid	National Society of New England Women
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Water Street

Pilgrim Mother Fountain	National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Plymouth Rock Canopy	National Society of Colonial Dames of the XVII Century

Pilgrim Hall

Granite Portico	New England Society of New York
Stained Glass Window	MA Chapter, Daughters of the Founders and Patriots of America
Mayflower Fountain	General Society of Daughters of the Revolution
Sun Dial	Society of Colonial Daughters of the 17th Century
Cannon from the Monument on Burial Hill	The United Kingdom

Burial Hill

Cannon Monument Site	The United Kingdom
Powder House	MA Society, Sons of the American Revolution

I think that you get flavor of the 1921 Commemoration. It was the blow out of blow outs. In case you are wondering why 1921 and not 1920. They faced the question of money and will power after the World War. We can sympathize when we remember our 400 Anniversary.

But then there was the 350th. The 350th was an entirely different world. We were in the midst of the Vietnam War, Civil Rights, and rising Native American awareness. There were missteps which haunt us as the Mayflower Society to this very day. Wamsutta Frank James a Wampanoag was invited to speak to a Thanksgiving Banquet. When the powers - that - were read his speech of a valid concern (to us) for the story of genocide, land theft and contemporary poverty, he

was forbidden to use that speech. Rather than rewrite the speech, he and other native leaders met on Cole's Hill where he delivered his same speech. His mistreatment gave rise to the National Day of Mourning which continues to this day on the Fourth Thursday of November.

In 1970 I was in the Peace Corps in West Africa and totally unaware of my descent from William, Susanna and Resolved. The only news I read in the *International Time Magazine* centered on the Tricentennial of my father's home state of South Carolina and the celebrations there. For me Plymouth and the Mayflower was a long way in the future. If there were no big events in Plymouth other than the Banquet, how did we mark the 350th. For coin collectors and stamp collectors the answer was robust, "I collect that." I have collected pretty much every coin or First Day Cover. As a collector I want to have one of each. The count is fifty-four American First Day Covers, which range from hand painted ones to commercial ones, and thirty-one UK issues. I have every coin and medallion issued, that I know of. Some of which are very scarce and some that are really common. So like not reading the long prayer of 1853, I will not show all of them. But here are a few of my favorites.

This is a restrike of the original 1920 medallion except for changing 2 to a 7. The following three are gilt medallions to celebrate these cities connection to the Mayflower.



Boston was the site of the abortive attempt of Brewster and Jackson to flee to Holland.



Southampton is the site where the Speedwell and the Mayflower met. Susanna, William and Resolved were on the Speedwell.



Plymouth, a happenstance name with the new colony, was the final port before leaving for Plimoth.



This concludes our overview of historical commemorations of our forebears. Our children and their descendants will have to write of the struggles of the 400th anniversary. But we do have the Rose Parade.

Annual Dues Notices

Dues for the calendar year 2025 are \$15.

During the last week of December, I attempted to send emails to all members about the status of their dues payments.

If you did not receive an email or have any questions please contact me:

swuest@aol.com

561-716-0586 (call or text)

Thanks,
Susie Wuest, Treasurer

Jamestowne Society

The editor noted the follow FB post



Something Curious



A 1959 photo of Marilyn Monroe, in semi-pilgrim garb with blunderbuss, and her eye on a turkey.

Letters to the Editor

<p>2021-2026 SOCIETY OFFICERS</p> <p>GOVERNOR ANN WILKERSON</p> <p>DEPUTY GOVERNOR ELLA-MARIE OCHOWICZ</p> <p>RECORDING SECRETARY BETSIE GRICAR</p> <p>CORRESPONDING SECRETARY PATRICK WHITE</p> <p>TREASURER SUSIE WUEST</p> <p>HISTORIAN BARBARA WILLIAMS</p> <p>CAPTAIN CHARLES PROVOST</p> <p>ELDER KENNETH WHITMORE, JR.</p>
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Dear Cousin Mike,

Thank you for a very interesting newsletter. I appreciate all your hard work and if ever I find I have something worthy of sharing with you and the group, I will happily do so.

Cousin Linda Smith

Descendant of Peregrine

Cousin Mike,

Thank you, the arrangement and presentation of my article on my Grandfather De Board was very nice!

Cousin Jenny

Your letter here – in the April newsletter!

Welcome New Members

Ann Bonfoey Hallman -- Resolved

Sandra Loring Goodson -- Resolved

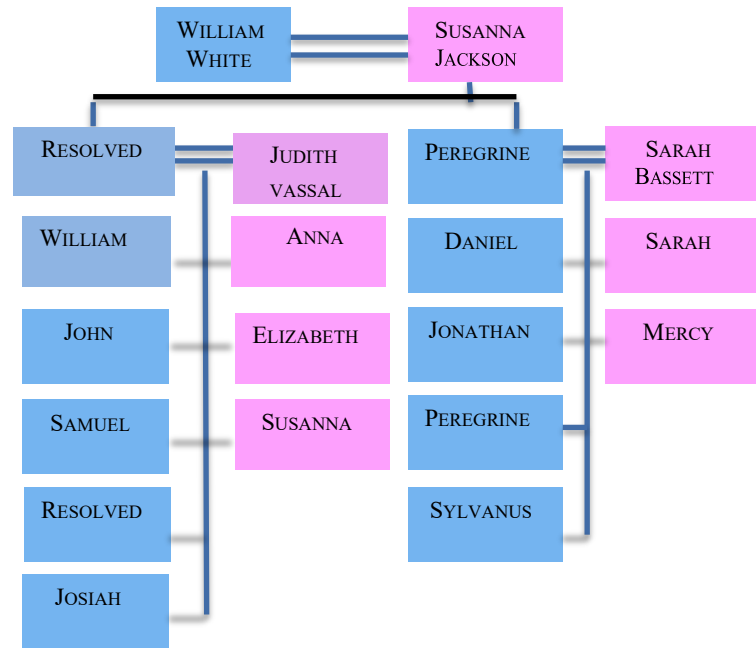
Paul Russell White --Peregrine



Photos of street signs in Ann’s daughter’s Texas neighborhood. Coincidence?

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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