



# 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,*

Spring brought our society a very welcome surprise from one of our cousins in the form of an amazingly generous, meaningful, kind, thoughtful, special, significant, (the list goes on...) donation. While our benefactor wishes to remain anonymous, we extend to him or her our gratitude for remembering that the Pilgrim William White Society is our way of staying connected as cousins. Our family society of over 200 members promotes the learning and sharing of the story of our Pilgrim ancestors, William and Susanna, Resolved and Peregrine.

Your society officers met on Zoom to discuss how best to utilize our donor's gift. We all know from the GSMD website, Quarterly Magazine, and Governor General's reports and videos, that the Meeting House project is the ambitious undertaking to create an interactive and meaningful exhibition of our history. The PWWS board determined that we should increase our support of the Meeting House, and utilize one of the "Naming Opportunities" that the General Society has created. Those opportunities include naming of the sanctuary or the purchase of the carillon bells or one of eight chandeliers. Searching within our budget, we have selected to support a Sanctuary Pew Section which will enable us to have a permanent marker. Current PWWS members will look for our plaque in the sanctuary and future potential PWWS members will see our marker and know that we are a Society that cares about our family legacy and the future.

The GSMD Development office is of course very happy to reserve this pew section for us. They have also advised that our cumulative donations from 2018



*Governor Ann Wilkerson*

### IN THIS ISSUE

**Over 90?  
Beverly Spooner  
America 250  
Dr. John White-Patriot  
Looking Back  
T-Shirts  
Mayflower Quilt  
Letters to the Editor**

onward count towards the investment of \$5,000 for the pew section. With our recent anonymous gift, we are now only \$600 from the total needed.

Two other things came up during our discussion that I want to mention here. First, our major donor and your officers would like to ensure that our grandmother Susanna White is honored equally with our patriarch William. While the General Society has not yet determined the design and size of our pew section marker, we have let them know that we would like it to read:

In Honor of William and Susanna White  
The Pilgrim William White Society

To the extent possible, they will honor our request.

And finally, your board would like to include a donation request on the dues renewal form in the future. Our dues remain at a very modest \$15, and this will facilitate with no obligation any additional funds which you may want to designate. This would be totally voluntary, of course.

*All the Best,*

*Ann*

## Over 90?

The Pilgrim William White Society wishes to honor our over 90 years old members by waiving the annual \$15 membership fee. We hope this small but heartfelt allowance will enable you to remain a member for years to come! Our Historian, Barbara Williams, plans to reach out for comments. Our first such cousin is Beverly Spooner.

### Beverly Spooner

I first joined the GSMD in 1965 in the State of Rhode Island under ancestor William White. Further research revealed I had other ancestors, supplements through the GSMD, as well: Stephen Hopkins, Dr. Samuel Fuller, Thomas Rogers and James Chilton. I transferred to the Colorado Mayflower Society in February of 2006, then served as Governor of the Colorado Mayflower Society from November 2011 to November 2014, one of my proudest moments.

My interest in genealogy has led me to join other societies such as the Daughters of the American Revolution, United States Daughters of 1812, Colonial Daughters of America, United States Daughters of the Union 1871-1875, Sons and



Daughters of the Pilgrims, New England Women, Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, Dames of the Court of Honor, Order of the Crown of Charlemagne, and

Women Descendants of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company.

I have 5 children, 8 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, all of whom I adore. My wonderful husband and I now enjoy spending our summers at our Colorado mountain home and winters in the Arizona desert.

Thank you for letting me share a bit of my story

*Cousin Beverly*

# America 250

*By Cousin Ann Wilkerson*

**T**hese days we are used to hearing our political news 24/7, but these events taking place in the Spring of 1775 would forever change history. They unfolded in an orderly way although Revolution by definition can be chaotic. Let's take a look at what was happening just 250 short years ago:

March 23: Patrick Henry exclaims "Give me liberty or give me death!" to the Second Virginia



Convention at St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia. King George III had retaliated against the colonies after the

Boston Tea Party. Already Boston had been closed to merchant shipping and Massachusetts was under formal British military rule. Understanding what was happening in the colony to the North, Henry maintained that "the distinctions between Virginians, Pennsylvanians, New Yorkers, and New Englanders are no more. I am not a Virginian; I am an American."

Fun Fact: Patrick Henry spoke without notes and no one in 1775 thought to write down his speech at the time. In 1817, William Wirt recreated the text based on interviews with those who had been present those 42 years ago.

March 27: Thomas Jefferson is elected to represent Virginia in the Second Continental Congress, where John Adams and Samuel Adams are to represent Massachusetts.

March 30: As a way to rein in on the New England colonies, King George III endorses the New England Restraining Act requiring those colonies to trade exclusively with Great Britain.

April 14: The Society for the Relief of Free Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage is

founded in Philadelphia. Founded by Anthony Benezet who was a Quaker and a Huguenot, this earliest American abolitionist society later would be headed by Benjamin Franklin.

April 18-19: American spies learning of British plans to capture colonial leaders Samuel Adams and John Hancock, spread the word and thus we have the Midnight Ride of Paul Revere. Having been warned, 77 American militiamen confront the British first at Lexington and then at Concord. The American Revolution begins.

May 10: As the Second Continental



Congress convenes, Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold lead the successful attack on Fort Ticonderoga on the shores of Lake Champlain.

Fun Fact (or not so fun): both Allen and Arnold would later be accused of treason, but only Arnold is convicted.

May 24: John Hancock is elected President of the Continental Congress. Fun Fact: In the mid-19th century "John Hancock" would first be used in America as slang for one's signature. I don't know what the equivalent slang is in England - do you?

June 10: John Adams asks Congress to designate a Continental Army led by a general. Up to this time, the men laying siege to Boston following Lexington and Concord are mainly New Englanders from local militias. Adams believes that the British need to know that the colonies are united in this cause, and therefore a General from Virginia, one George Washington, is proposed as the leader.

June 14: The U.S. Army is established with the enlistment of expert riflemen in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.

June 15: Congress votes to approve George Washington as Commander of the

Army.

Fun Fact: Washington writes his wife Martha on June 18 (Letter is in the National Archives) expressing his reluctance to accept the job and also enclosing his will. <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-01-02-0003>

June 17: British advance against the

Americans at Bunker Hill, adjacent to Breed's Hill on the Charlestown Peninsula. Although Britain retains their position, their losses



are heavy. Despite technically "losing," Americans are convinced that they can overcome British military might. It was an American victory for this boost in morale.

June 22: American Revolutionaries need to fund the war. What to do? Congress authorizes \$2 million in bills of credit. The bills are called "Continental" and instead of a depiction of the King, they feature portraits of soldiers. Backed by future taxes, the bills ultimately have no value and the U.S. will start its young life with a major war debt.

## What Did You Do During the War?

If you have a Pilgrim Ancestor, then you have family that lived the American Revolution. During the Semiquincentennial, why not tell your cousins what your ancestor was doing – A Tory? A Loyalist? A Patriot? A Neutral?

## Dr. John White - Patriot

*By Cousin Eileen Mae Knapp Patch*

My American Revolution Ancestor is Dr. John White, whose mother was Thankful Goss. The other generations back

to William White are Judith Hayward, Anna White and Resolved White.

Like Cousin Ann, I owe my interest in genealogy to family members. My maternal grandfather, Ernest J. Barnes corresponded with cousins who remained in Massachusetts when his grandparents moved from Blandford to Orwell, Pennsylvania. He went back to visit cemeteries and living cousins and joined the Barnes Family Association. He attended at least one reunion and had yearbooks from 1906, 1907, and 1910 showing genealogies. For Grandpa's mother, Clarissa A. Lloyd, he also had a book, *Lloyds of Blandford*. In browsing that book I discovered the connection back to William White, spelled out in the back. This prompted me to join the DAR and SoMD in 2002 and 2003 respectively.

Most of what I know about my patriot ancestor I found in *Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolution from Blandford, Massachusetts*. It says he served a term of three years, when he was 43 years of age. He was five feet ten inches in height, of



light complexion and his occupation was doctor. This further statement follows: "John White was long resident and medical practitioner in Blandford." His bounty was paid by David Campbell, May 20, 1780.

Perhaps he examined the recruits when joining and he likely treated the wounded. It would be great to know more details, but I am thankful for what is preserved. Kudos to all our Patriots to Passengers!



# Looking Back

By Cousin Alan

**T**his is a different type of article for me. Usually, I have focused on the outstanding actions and more tolerant attitudes of our White ancestors and their related families. For the most part this has been an easy task, but unfortunately there is always a darker side to any story. In the present world it is easier to focus on the “happy” stuff than to realize that all people can do evil things. The darker story can be the tragedy of our forebears and their descendants, or it can become source of forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation.

Resolved White, my ancestor, married Judith Vassall. So, her story becomes mine once I claim her link to my becoming a member of the Huguenot Society of SC and the Jamestowne Society. I cannot scrub the story clean. I have often lifted Judith’s father William up as a paragon of religious toleration and acceptance. And he was a paragon of hope at the time in New England especially compared with Winthrop and the Bay Colony and Edward Winslow, Resolved’s stepfather in the Plymouth Colony. Yet when William went to Barbados, he would lay the foundation of what would become one of the major enslaved populations. His descendants would at a minimum claim ownership of over 3,200 African people and would become incredibly wealthy.

An often unsung story is the origin of the so-called Red Leg community of the Barbados. This is a horribly offensive phrase for which I ask forgiveness. Their origin lay in the actions of Cromwell in Ireland during the Civil War. He killed all captured Irish officers and offered the other soldiers either immediate death or the slower death of slavery in Barbados. These men were the original enslaved population. Cromwell and the other invaders of Ireland also enslaved women and children to work on the sugar plantations. When they were

unable to survive, the enslavers turned to Africa. I suggest reading the tragic account more fully found in *To Hell or Barbados*.

The accounts are too graphic for me to repeat. I will simply say that many of the Irish survivors and their descendants would become the white under class of the islands demeaned by the phrase above. These men and women were probably the first enslaved population to be exploited by our ancestor William Vassall. A side note: one of my

“distinguished” families is of Irish origin who came from Barbados in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. I cannot establish that they were enslaved originally, but the English wanted no Irish to own property, be successful in Ireland or Barbados and certainly not emigrate to the new lands bringing their Irishness. Fortunately for me, perpetual chattel property would not be the fate of the Irish enslaved, but tragically it would come to haunt generations of the African enslaved.

## Some T-shirts are better than others



Cousin Patrick White got this Mayflower T-shirt for his birthday. He says it’s a nice shirt – but the ship is not the *Mayflower*.

# Mayflower Quilt

*By Cousin Donna Crosby*

**H**ere is a quilt (my last) that I am working on now, it memorializes the ships in the center, with wreaths of the magnificence of New England in the Fall, and with the names of our White passengers embroidered on the side panels...the center shows the Mayflower and the Speedwell following behind, at the beginning of that momentous and historical voyage!



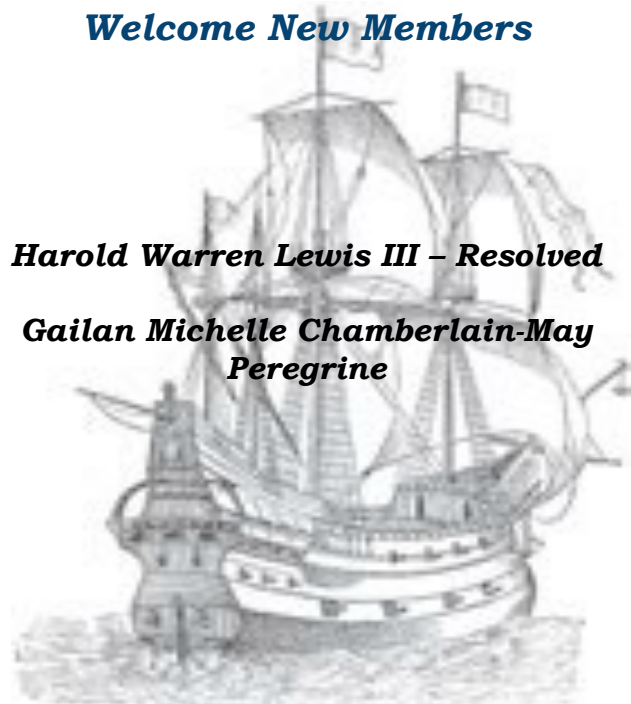
It is, in honor of the 'days of old' before electricity and sewing machines came into being, 100 percent 'by hand' (INCLUDING the binding), and thus memorializing that momentous adventure, where everything they DID was 100% by hand!

I am now fully incentivized to finish quilting this Memorial in their honor AND in appreciation to the William White Society 'knowing my name' and welcoming me so warmly!

## Welcome New Members

**Harold Warren Lewis III – Resolved**

**Gailan Michelle Chamberlain-May  
Peregrine**



### 2021-2026 SOCIETY OFFICERS

GOVERNOR  
**ANN WILKERSON**

DEPUTY GOVERNOR  
**ELLA-MARIE OCHOWICZ**

RECORDING SECRETARY  
**BETSIE GRICAR**

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY  
**PATRICK WHITE**

TREASURER  
**SUSIE WUEST**

HISTORIAN  
**BARBARA WILLIAMS**

CAPTAIN  
**CHARLES PROVOST**

ELDER  
**KENNETH WHITMORE, JR.**

## *Letters to the Editor*

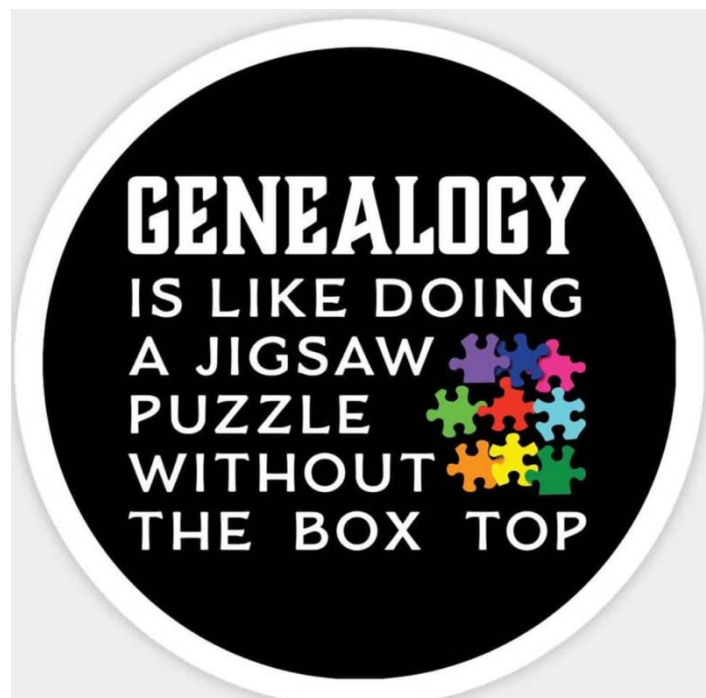
*Dear Cousin Mike,*

Great hearing from you, Cousin Mike. I am impressed by the newsletter. Even this one issue is very informative. I am happy to be a new member of the PWWS, and now as a retiree I may have time to be involved to some degree.

This area, the Southern Tier of Upstate New York, was beyond the pre-independence treaty lines, and was therefore one of the last parts of the northeast to be settled by Euro-Americans. Assuming my own family tree serves as a typical example, the first settlers were about two-thirds New England Yankees (especially from Connecticut) and about one-third Dutch from the Hudson Valley. I knew I had many Puritan ancestors from the Great Migration of the 1630s, but somehow, I didn't notice until last year that I had *Mayflower* ancestors as well, meaning Resolved and his parents. Interestingly, my White family descendant great-great-grandmother married into another unique branch of my family tree--the branch descended in part from the "Poor Palatine" refugees who arrived in the Hudson Valley work camps in 1710.

*Every best wish to you,*

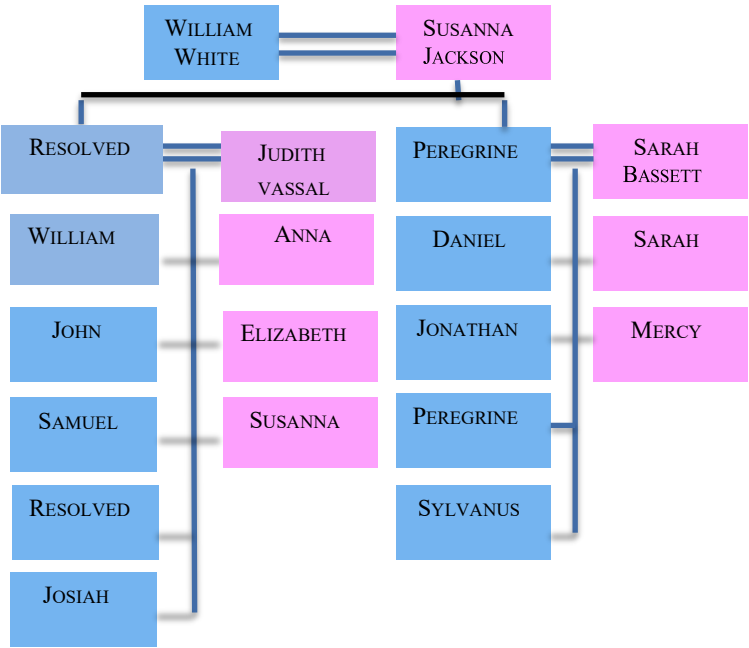
*Cousin Hal*



***Your letter here – in the April newsletter!***

# 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.



THE PILGRIM WILLIAM WHITE SOCIETY  
MICHAEL BEARD, SOCIETY NEWS EDITOR  
8510 FLIP FLOP COURT  
PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLORIDA 32413