



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,

The first signs of fall have arrived: tree leaves are turning, the halloween candy aisle is fully stocked, and apples are ready for picking.

Did you know that their fondness for apples saved our ancestors?

During the stormy Atlantic crossing, the *Mayflower* had a beam so severely damaged that turning back to England was once again contemplated. The beam was repaired with a large iron screw the Pilgrims borrowed from their apple press equipment. The voyage was saved and history (our history) was made.

After arrival in Plymouth, Pilgrims planted apple trees which thrived, while crops of barley and grains for beer struggled. Cider became the top beverage in early America.

Here are some other facts about apples in the 17th century and beyond:

The word "apple" in Old English was a generic term for any fruit.

By the mid 17th century, England's cultivation of apples included at least 60 varieties for cooking, cider, and medicinal uses. Orchards in Kent fed the growing population of London.

When would we have learned about gravity without Isaac Newton's fallen apple in 1666?

Pomatum, an ointment made from apples ("pommes" in French), was used for skin conditions. We get the word pomade from this.

Shakespeare referenced crab apples, rotten apples, and apple of my eye.



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During the late 1800's, cider decreased in popularity as immigrants from Germany and Eastern Europe brought with them their preferences for beer.

During prohibition, not only was cider production illegal, but apple trees were destroyed by ax and torch. When the 18th Amendment was repealed, cider drinking was out of favor.

The rise of craft beer brewing in the 1990's led to a similar rise in cider brewing.

I hope that all our cousins enjoy some apple pie, apple cider, apple donuts, applesauce, and much more during this happy season of Thanksgiving.

(Written on my Apple laptop)

Fondly,

Ann

Sources: stonecirclecider.com
en.wikipedia.org

AI overview, "Apples in England 17th Century"

San Antonio Meeting



Four Pilgrim William White Society members attended the 2025 General Society

of Mayflower Descendants General Board of Assistants Meeting held in San Antonio, Texas, September 4 - 7. From left to right: Benese Scherrer, Nevada Assistant General; Jessica Schleinzer, Illinois Assistant General; Prarie Counce, Texas Acting Deputy Governor General; and Jane Schleinzer, Member at Large, Illinois. The next GSMD meeting will be Congress in September 2026 in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

IN MY GENES

By Cousin Everett Elliott White, Jr.

I was probably 7 or 8 years old when my Grandfather told me that we were descended from the Pilgrims. I was not impressed as I thought at the time that everyone, except the Indians, were descended from the Pilgrims.

I completely forgot about it for about 50 years. When I was nearing retirement, I said to myself, gee, I think I'll check out about my Pilgrim Heritage. I was informed that my first five generations had been proven by others but I would have to prove the last 5 generations. This was before



computers were widely used to transfer documents so I started visiting many Town and City Halls to get the required birth, marriage, and death certificates. I was doing fine until I hit a snag. I could not prove the birth of my Father. He was born at home, about 8 miles from the City Hall and transportation methods in 1898 were not like today so his birth never got recorded. I went to our local Church and they had his baptism record but not his birth. My Father was a WW1 Veteran, so I contacted the Army archive section to see

what they could tell me. It seems his records along with thousands of others were consumed in a fire during the 1940's. He was a graduate of Boston University and they had his birth date. His marriage license and death certificate also had his birth date but the deciding factor in my approval of membership in the Mayflower Society was my Father's older brother Harrison White, my Uncle Harry's memoir, in which he talked of his life growing up in West Peabody and his years as a Missionary in Turkey and China. In his book, he describes the birth of my Father and records the date.

I became a member of the Massachusetts Society and later the Maine Society. I did not believe my membership was anything out of the ordinary until I was contacted by a member of the General Society asking if I would agree to donate my DNA for a proposed project to excavate Coles Hill, identify the Pilgrims buried there, and then rebury them in single well marked graves. My DNA would be used to try to identify **William White** who was one of the many Pilgrims buried on Coles hill, who died

that first winter and was buried in a common grave. I was told that because I had a 400-year male line of descent from William that my DNA would be a match. A National well known historical group was going to finance the project. However, the Town Government of Plymouth decided that the gravesite had been



undisturbed for 400 years and it would stay that way. I agree. When the William White Society was formed, I was extremely happy to become a Charter Member. I think I'm member no. 12. We are a good group of

Cousins. I'm enclosing a photo of me at 20 in my Navy uniform and at 94 in my Legion uniform.

Editor's Note – this article on one of a series Society Historian Barbara Williams has imitated – BTW, Everet is member number 11.

STUCK IN FRANCE

By Cousin Sharon (Toni) Penner

I need of a true professional genealogist. I belong to Mayflower, Jamestowne, and Huguenot Societies as well as DAR, Civil War Dames, etc. I can trace, and prove, my lineage back to 1109 in France. But I'm stuck.

Family Search has one female listed in my "tree" around 1300, but two French books (published in 1817 and 1825) and several English royal books with hundreds of years of lineage do not. Someone, somewhere, sometime, had information on this English female in order to add her name to my family tree in Family Search. I know adding information to the websites is only as good as the person who does it and has supposedly pertinent documentation.

I have been unable to find actual documents to tie her name from my French lineage to her English family lineage and the signing of the Magna Charta (although, here again, someone has tied her name directly on my family tree to the Magna Charta and beyond).

I have proven my French lineage to 1109 and would like to prove this second line branching off from France to England and the Magna Charta which would then tie my line to Charlamagne -- which is my ultimate goal.

I'm looking at **Henry de Beaumont**, 3rd Baron, 1340-

1369. Maybe first wife or second wife,

Margaret de Vere, 1335 (1340)-1398 --

published in *Book of 600 Immigrants* pg.

314. I'm trying to find:



Joanne de Bellomonte - maybe first or second wife of Henry, Mother of **Galienne de Toucheboeuf** which ties into my French ancestor, de Vassal (or Vassall).

I'm looking for documentation on **Joanne de Bellomonte** (mother, father, marriage documents). She is not registered in the published books I have, but is on Family Search. She may be tied to a different de Beaumont, in which case that won't be my line of ancestors, but I still can't find any actual documentation and why would someone in years past add her name to my family tree with no documentation.

I am more than willing to pay a professional Genealogist to research, because I sure can't find any documents, and there's no point on spending any more time and frustrations if this one female can't be "proven." (I'll just tell myself going back to 1109 in France is enough). Someone, somewhere, sometime, has had knowledge of this English female to add her name to my family tree, but I sure am drawing a blank, especially, if the English books on royalty I have don't list her. Maybe there's other published books I haven't found yet. I even considered she might not have been "legitimate" but haven't a clue how to find out.

Maybe a professional genealogist who has access to more European data/websites than I have, can give me some pointers. I've used;

- *The Royal Descents of 600 Immigrants*, by Gary Boyd Roberts
- *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain*, by John Burke
- *The Magna Charta Barons and their American Descendants*, by Charles Henry Browning
- *Histoire Genealogique Et Heraldique des Pairs de France*, by J. W. Pierre de Courcelles
- *Nobiliaire Universel de France*, by Nicolas Viton de Saint-Allais

Several websites: Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.com, Geni.com, archives.com, Find-grave.com, AmericanAncestors.org

(NEHGS), geneanet.org, rootsweb.com, genealogieonlineNL. I also look at wikitree.com and Wikipedia.com on occasion, but take them all with a grain a salt.

I've also been in some French historical society websites, but I don't speak French, so haven't a clue what I'm looking at.

Joanne de Bellomonte could have been French or English, but since I can't document her, I'm at a loss on what to do next. My lineage ties directly to **Henry de Beaumont**, 3rd Baron (1340-1369), but not his "published wife" **Margaret de Vere**, so everything beyond his name doesn't lead me to the Magna Charta.

If you happen to know a professional Genealogist, send them my way.

Editor's Note: The General Society offers genealogical services for a fee. Although the website mentions their expertise in New England history, I am sure they could refer you to a professional who can help you.
<https://themayflowersociety.org/genealogy/research-services/>

Pilgrim Game



Cousin Nancy McNabb picked up this Pilgram card game at a book sale. It is in perfect condition. She plans to play the game at the next Albany Colony meeting.

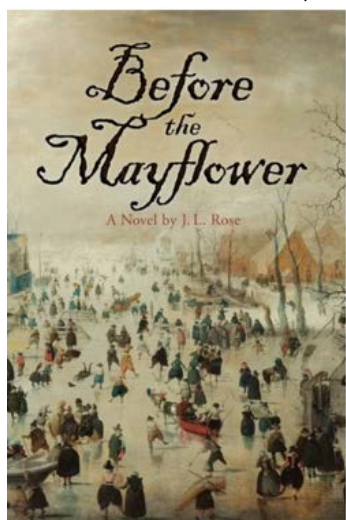
Before the Mayflower

A book review by Cousin Helen Krispien

Many books have been written about the *Mayflower* and its prior history before

setting sail in 1620, but in this paperback book of historical fiction, *Before the Mayflower* by J. L. Rose, the author gives an extraordinarily detailed overview of Pilgrim life in Leiden and Elizabethan England in the 33 years leading up to the Pilgrims removal to the New World. It's as if readers are actually walking the streets of Leiden and living the characters' lives at the time.

As the story progresses with the fictional Okes family (although there actually was a printer with this name in London at the time, but there was not



enough historical data to be found about him.) The father, Nicholas Okes, walks a tightrope as his religious beliefs do not lie with King James, but he does not want to anger the Stationers Company as he discreetly publishes titles that could

threaten his livelihood and his family's security in London. The story line meanders through the trials and tribulations of he and his family life with his wife, Rose, who was "A Lady in Waiting" for Queen Elizabeth. The couples' three children are spirited and readers vividly witness his daughters' affairs of the heart. . . Would one of his daughters leave for the New World, and join her sister and Edward Winslow or follow her heart and stay in England with the man of her dreams?

A young and eager Edward Winslow, factors into the narrative as a printer. Other familiar names include William Bradford, William Brewster and his family. Winslow married the fictional Elizabeth Okes in the story, the printer's daughter, on the same date as he actually married Elizabeth

Barker, his real-life wife, before they embarked for the New World.

As the narrative continues to unfold, readers learn how the Pilgrims' mentor, Pastor John *Battle of Kip's Bay* Robinson, spoke of "letting in unto the church or sharing a transgressor openly with the congregation. Trouble that could not be resolved privately should be shared with church leaders. If these steps failed, the conflict should be brought to the attention of the congregation and dealt with within the church." This contrasted with the Church of England hierarchy of bishops. Robinson wanted to cut through all the rhetoric and discuss issues openly. This thinking alone was just cause for the Pilgrims to set sail on the *Mayflower*, much less the political turmoil brewing. A series of moans rumbling in the silent pressure builds in the storyline, finally leading up for the Pilgrims to set sail on their historic voyage.

The cover of the book is a painting by Avercamp Hendrick "Winter Landscape with Skaters" 1608. The painting hangs in the RijksMuseum in Amsterdam.



Benanuel Bonfoey

By Cousin Ann Bonfoey Hallman

My paternal line back to William White (*Mayflower*) through Resolved is 10 generations. My 5th great-grandfather, Benanuel Bonfoey, a Private in the Continental Army from Haddam, Connecticut was given leave to scurry home and marry his sweetie, Concurrence Smith, in July 1779, and lo and behold their first



Battle of Kip's Bay

son was born 21 November 1779! At least he made an honest woman out of her, and they were married many years and produced 12 children in all, 6 sons and 6 daughters. He served in the battles of Long Island, Kip's Bay, and White Plains. He enlisted 2 April 1777 and was discharged 29 March 1780. He appears on the Connecticut 6th Regiment Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783.

Halloween or Reformation?

By Beth Lambricht, Chair, GSMD Education Committee

While many will don costumes and go trick or treating on October 31st, Germany and many other countries will celebrate Reformation Day. On October 31, 1517, a German priest named Martin Luther was hammering his 95 Theses on the castle



church door in Wittenburg, Germany. These theses contained protests against church practices. This key event began a sweeping period in Europe of the

rediscovery of basic biblical principles that led to changes in worship, opened the door to participation by lay people, and Bibles being published in the language of the common folk. This reform that began 100 years before our Pilgrim ancestors arrived in the New World would lead to incredible

freedoms in religion and speech that last to our own day and are some of the key elements of our American liberty.

The Reformation movement would make its way to England and its radical ideas preached at Cambridge University would eventually lead to the emergence of Puritans as well as Separatists in rural areas of that country. In East Anglia, especially, some of our ancestors had become so liberated in their practicing their faith that they were hunted down, fined, imprisoned, and even hung or burned at the stake! Many of their churches went “underground”, meeting illegally in secret. At Scrooby Manor there was one such group led by Pastors John Robinson and Richard Clyfton that finally moved on to the Netherlands where they lived for some 12 years, only to have to move on AGAIN—this time to the New World. So, it can be rightly said, without the Reformation our Separatist ancestors who boarded the Mayflower to escape religious persecution, might never have come to New England!

Home Sweet Home

The editor spotted this very cool English cottage on Facebook – our friend, Sue Allan resides there and she is about ready to publish a book on **William White**.



Made to Last Forever

By Allison Stabile, Fairbanks Family Descendant

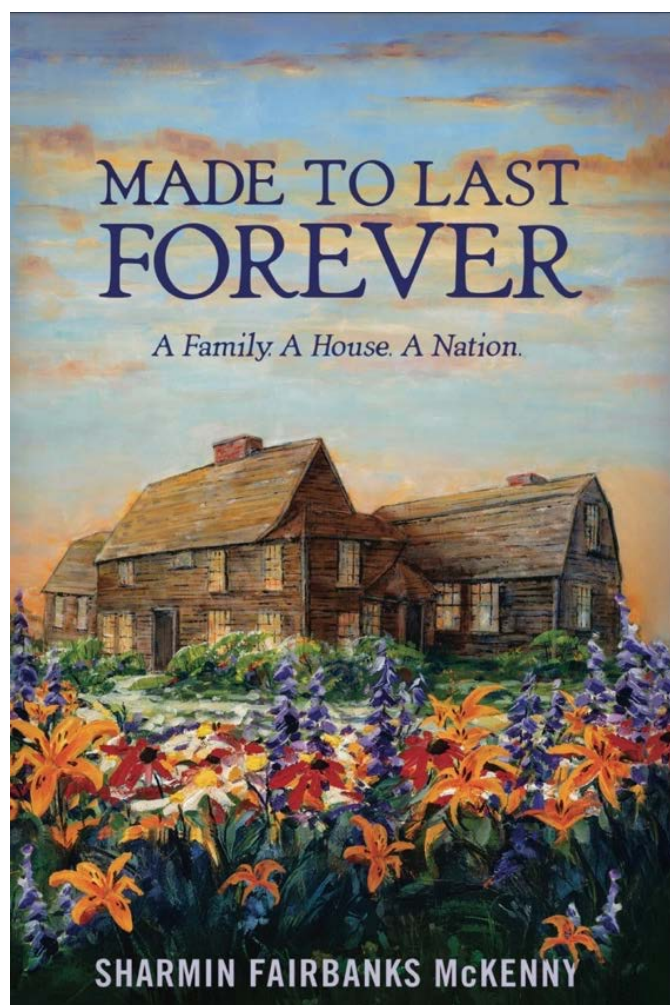
My 8th cousin, **Sharmin Fairbanks McKenny**, has written a historical fiction novel that will resonate with anyone whose ancestors arrived in the New World around the time of Pilgrim **William White**. This book offers a glimpse into the life and times of colonists in Massachusetts Bay - a touching family story that resonates in modern times.

Seeing as there is a correlation between the Pilgrim William White and the Fairbanks Family, I want to make you aware of the book that will be released on October

description:

In the shadows of the English Plague of 1625, Jonathan Fairbanks finds himself snubbed in his father's will and thrust in to chaos of King Charles's persecution of Puritans. Risking everything he sails with his young family over treacherous seas to the uncertainty of the wilderness founded as the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Jonathan struggles to carve a place for his family in the new town of Dedham. His wife Grace strives to overcome her doubts and hardship while sustaining their family. Just when Jonathan sees security for the family, his son Jonas asserts his own ambitions, contrary to his father's and is sent away to a newer frontier. Then Jonas finds a way to marry for love.

The book will be available for sale on Amazon and the Fairbanks House website: Fairbankshouse.org.



1st. ***Made To Last Forever: A Family. A House. A Nation.*** Here is the jacket

Dues for Calendar Year 2026
are Due

Still \$15

Please make check payable
to TPWWS

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Susie Wuest, Treasurer
12283 Rockledge Circle
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Letters to the Editor

Dear Cousin Mike,

As usual, this is a fabulous newsletter!
Thank you so much!
Best,
Cousin Carol Young

Dear Cousin Mike,

I have read this Newsletter a dozen times -- and every time I read it, my heart sings! *If you know their names, they are not forgotten.*

Just recently I have discovered and proved my Dad's Mother is a direct descendant of **Edward Doty** AND get this, *Doc Holliday* ... (and as well as Pocahontas)!!

In Douglas Richardson's book, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, I found and proved that my Mom and Dad share a common ancestor, **John Saint John** (1495-1558). My Mom is/was a descendant of his 1st wife, **Margaret Waldegrave**, while my Dad is a descendant of his 2nd wife, **Anne Neville**.

What astounds me every day, is that from 1542 to 1900 those siblings remained together as 'family' and where they met in Hillard/Hendrickson Missouri you have to have been born there to know how to get there!), where they grew up and eventually married each other, (first and only for both of them), in 1934..and they both died before I found this incredible family history!...and thanks for my Grandfather Gillham, who named me his 'Gillham Family Storyteller', to take and maintain the history and the names of the 'ancestors'.

What a journey
Cousin Donna Crosby

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

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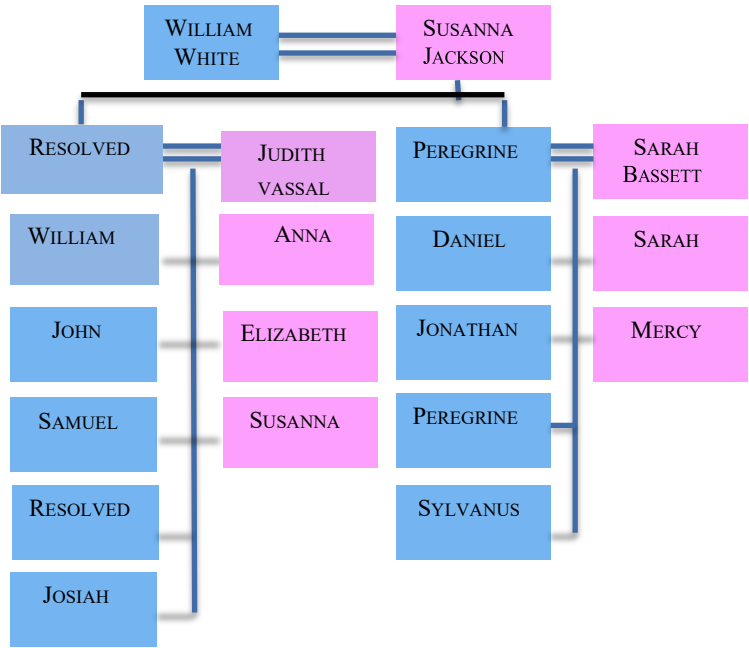
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How our ancestors unfriended people



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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