



Society News

THE PILGRIM WILLIAM WHITE SOCIETY

AN ENDORSED FAMILY SOCIETY
OF THE GENERAL SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

ESTABLISHED 2013

VOLUME XIV

JULY 2026

NUMBER 3

Message from the Governor

Dear Cousins,

I am excited to tell you about the latest publishing effort by our friend and White Family expert Sue Allan. Her original research with Caleb Johnson provided us with the maiden name for our grandmother Susanna and knowledge of her Jackson and Pettinger families. Susanna's life was explored in Sue's 2018 book *In Search of Mayflower Pilgrim Susanna White-Winslow*. Last month Sue's companion book on grandfather William was published. It is titled, appropriately enough, *In Search of Mayflower Pilgrim William White of Wisbech*.

I had long felt that any new information on William was not forthcoming. After all, he died so soon after the Mayflower's arrival in Plymouth, and his name was then no longer recorded in colony events. Both "William" and "White" are common English names, so thorough research was needed to find more background on OUR own William White. Sue presents us with the facts of William's paternal and maternal families, the story of his childhood as an orphan, and his religious beliefs and excommunication. Sue acknowledges the financial support that our Pilgrim William White Society provided; support that all of us can be proud to have offered. We can all appreciate that her model of William for the book cover is White descendant Stephen Provost, son of our PWWS board member Chuck.

Details on ordering *In Search of Mayflower Pilgrim William White of Wisbech* can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. For those coming to Congress in September in Plymouth, we will be discussing the book as our program. Please plan to join us in celebrating William!

Happy Reading,

Ann



Governor Ann Wilkerson

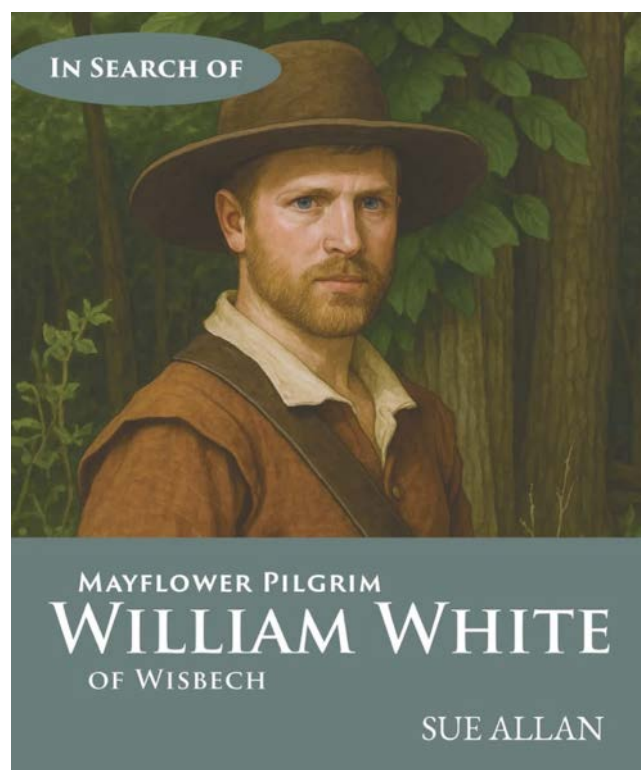
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Have You Read This Yet?

By Ann Wilkerson, Governor PWWS

The Pilgrim William White Society is delighted to promote the publication of Sue Allan's latest book. Following up on her "In Search of Mayflower Pilgrim Susanna White-Winslow," Sue turns her attention to our grandfather William.



We will be discussing and reviewing this at our meeting in Plymouth on September 11. Copies may be purchased at shop.americanancestors.org

"In this compelling biography of William White, a foundational ancestor to so many across America, Sue Allan reveals who William's father was and identifies the school William attended as a boy. She also proves that the school was once Wisbech's ancient Holy Trinity Guild Hall. In her signature style, she takes us deep into the history of Ely and the wild landscape of the Fenlands to the heart of William White's life as a young orphan in the streets of Wisbech.

"The life of Mayflower Pilgrim William White ended quickly during the first awful winter in Plymouth. To understand William's roots, acclaimed historian Sue Allan has turned her attention to documenting the facts of his pre-Mayflower life. Descendants of William and Susanna Jackson White will fill in many branches of their family trees, while all readers will appreciate the research that debunks old myths and proves new facts.

"Set in turbulent times of plague, the Spanish Armada, and unbelievable religious conflict, this is a story of faith, honor, and courage, like no other." (take from the back cover of the book).

A Conversation with the Author

By Ann Wilkerson, Governor, PWWS

PWWS:

Sue, why have you spent so much time and devoted 2 books to the White family?

SUE:

The several research articles that Caleb (Johnson) and I published in the American Genealogist in 2017, outlining the definitive proof of the true genealogical roots of both William and Susanna (Jackson) White, while greeted with great excitement among



genealogists, made for staid and difficult reading for ordinary Mayflower Pilgrims descendants. Having myself carried out more than a year of solo research

before discovering the family of William White and Dorothy May at Wisbech, and by

flake, a similar amount of time some years before researching the family of Richard Jackson. In doing so, I knew that from my sole research there was just so much more of interest to White descendants that I could share, especially about the Pettinger family, other than just the dry facts that the official research article guidelines allowed for. And so, as a result, I wrote the book *In Search of Mayflower Pilgrim Susanna White Winslow* which was received with such wonderful warmth by her descendants. However, even though we published further research in 2020 in the NEHGS Register, at that time I felt that there was still not enough known about William White's life to warrant a book, so waited until I had more!

PWWS:

What was the most startling discovery you uncovered?

SUE:

That has to be to have identified the grammar school room where William White would have been taught as a child. And I have sat in it thinking about him.

PWWS:

What is the biggest myth about them?

SUE:

I am even still today confronted by descendants who believe that William White was a wool comber at Leiden and married Ann, the sister of Pilgrim Samuel Fuller.

PWWS:

What didn't make it into either book that you think would interest us?

SUE:

Everything I have not yet discovered.

PWWS:

I'm trying to get your personal connection to our family that you have spent years investigating

SUE:

I guess that you could describe it as a spiritual thing. I did not choose to research them, it just happened.

White Milestones

Cousin Everett White informs us he is now 95 and sends us a picture of him with Grandson Wyatt Kilburn. Everett and Wyatt are proud descendants of William White, but the seated family member, Levi, is of unknown descent.

Everett also tells us Wyatt has his Doctor of Medicine Diploma from Tuft's



Medical School in Massachusetts. He is currently a resident doctor at the University of Vermont medical center in Burlington, Vermont.



Benanuel Bonfoey – Patriot

By Cousin Ann Bonfoey Hallman

After getting hooked on genealogy 46 years ago, I've found and documented 3 ancestors who fought in the Revolution. I picked Benanuel as my patriot to write about. A descendant of Resolved White who



married Judith Vassall, Benanuel Bonfoey 1755-1825 is my 5th great-grandfather. The photos are Benanuel and his wife Concurrence's tombstones in the old Higganum Cemetery in Haddam, Connecticut. His

tombstone is very worn and is inscribed "A Soldier of the American Revolution 1776-1780". Concurrence's reads



"In Memory of Concurrence Smith wife of Benanuel Bonfoey who died Nov. 12, 1849 at 90 Into thy hands Oh Lord I commend my spirit" Benanuel served as a private for three years and embodies

'spirit' of the American soldier.

Benanuel served at the Battles of Long Island, Kip's Bay, and White Plains. His regiment wintered 1777-78 at West Point,



Battle of Long Island

and assisted in constructing permanent fortifications on Meig's redoubt. In the summer of 1778, the regiment camped with the main army under General

Washington at White Plains. According to the Federal Pension papers Benanuel Bonfoey enlisted into the army of the Revolution under Capt. Charles Pond on the 2nd day of April 1777 and that he served in the army of the Revolution until the 29th day of March 1780, when he was discharged

in Westfield, New Jersey. He was pensioned under The Act of Congress 1818 and was granted \$80 per annum. He appears on the Connecticut 6th Regiment Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783.



After the war Benanuel taught school for several terms, and among his pupils were the children of his old

comrades-in-arms. He then went to New Haven for a short time where he was employed as a ship caulker. He built his house on Candlewood Hill in Haddam between 1805 and 1808. Great-grandson Eugene Scovill resided in the house in 1911. Supposedly, both Benanuel and his wife Concurrence, and her mother Lydia Coggsweil Smith, died in this house.

Joseph Jeffers, Patriot

By Cousin Janice Annabel Shively Bassett

My 6th great grandfather was Joseph Jeffers, a Revolutionary War soldier. He left the Continental Army at age 20 and married Eunice Giddings when he was 23. They moved from Westfield, Massachusetts to a farm in Pinckney, New York. They had 9 children, 6 girls and 3 boys. He died at age 84. His obituary



follows:

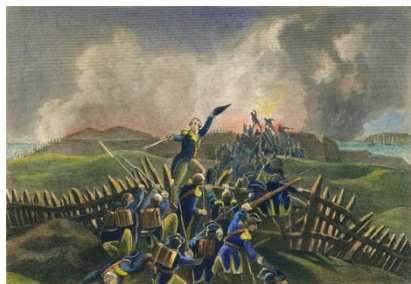
From the *Watertown Journal*

Another Revolutionary Patriot gone —

Mr. Joseph Jeffers, a soldier of the Revolution, died in Pickney, Lewis Co. N. Y., on the 28th ultimo, aged 84 years. Mr. J. was born in New London Co., Conn., in August, 1760. His

From the Watertown Journal.
ANOTHER REVOLUTIONARY PATRIOT GONE.— Mr. Joseph Jeffers, a soldier of the Revolution, died in Pinckney, Lewis Co. N. Y., on the 28th ultimo, aged 84 years. Mr. J. was born in New London Co., Conn., in August, 1760. His mother dying when he was only five years old, he was received into the family of Col. Agar, in Wethersfield, Mass., where he remained till he attained his fifteenth year, when he enlisted in the Continental service and joined the army at Cambridge soon after the battle of Bunker Hill.— He fought in the battles of Trenton and Princeton. In the summer of 1777, he was one of the detachment sent to Fort Mifflin (now Route, N. Y.) which was hemmed in three weeks by British and Indians under Col. St. Leger. He fought in the battle of Saratoga, and spent the following winter with the army at Valley Forge. He was in the battle at Monmouth, N. J., and one of the first who scaled the walls of the fort at Stony Point under Gen. Wayne, which was carried at the point of the bayonet. He left the army in 1780.

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Bayonet at Stony Point

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Update On Our Insignia

In our last newsletter we announced that orders for insignia were being temporarily suspended. This was due to the transition of vendors from Hamilton to CityPride. The inventory of our beautiful medals, mini charms, and lapel pins was purchased by your society and is now available for resale to you.

When you order, please know that your financial support is appreciated. This project was a big investment of Society funds; as orders are fulfilled, our bank account will benefit and that will result in even greater support for our charitable contributions. Here is a link to CityPride.

<https://cityprideltd.com/search.aspx?find=pilgrim+William+white>



Buying A Pin Can Help

How can a lapel pin or a Pilgrim William White Society Medal help your society and support the *Mayflower* Meeting House Project?

Many of you have been following along with the GSMD updates on the Meeting House project. There has been a meeting house at the top of Leyden Street in Plymouth since 1622 and the current building dates to 1897, the year the General Society was founded. Since acquiring the building in 2018, the GSMD has developed ambitious plans to provide an immersive, educational, and moving museum experience for descendants and tourists alike.

The Pilgrim William White Society has pledged a donation of \$5,000 towards the Meeting House project. In return for this

donation, we will receive a “naming opportunity” to recognize our ancestors William and Susanna (Jackson) White. Their names will be engraved on a plaque and placed on a section of the sanctuary pews. You will be able to visit, sit in the designated pew, and reflect on and honor your ancestors.

This is the important part where we need to discuss our Society finances. We have already donated \$3,100, leaving a balance to our pledge of \$1,900. Your board thought that our commitment was reasonable and achievable and definitely worthwhile, and we still do.

And then this happened: The supplier of our insignia was eliminating that part of their business. Our choice was to purchase the inventory or have it discarded in the waste bin. Your board decided that having the opportunity to wear our beautiful PWWS logo is an important member benefit, and we paid over \$2,000 to acquire the supply. This has had an impact on our financial balance that we could not have anticipated.

How can you help? Please go to the CityPride website and order your choice of beautiful medals, mini charms, and lapel pins. This will help us recover our investment.

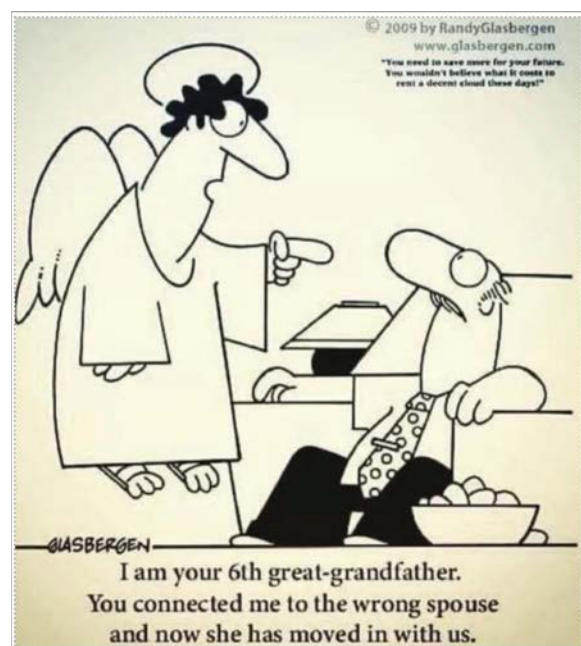
<https://cityprideltd.com/search.aspx?find=pilgrim+William+white>

For those attending our meeting in Plymouth, we will have additional fundraising opportunities, including a raffle of a Meeting House roof tile tray. We hope you will find these efforts fun and rewarding, and although donations are never mandatory, we hope you will choose to participate as you are able.

Sail Boston 250

The *Mayflower II* participated in the Sail Boston celebration in recognition of America 250. The journey between Plymouth and Boston took about 10 hours.

Mayflower II will remain in Boston until July 16th or 17th before she returns to Plymouth.



Welcome New Members

Gaye Elaine Love Baron - Resolved

Doris Provost - Resolved



Letters to the Editor

Dear Cousin Mike,

It is always such a joy for me to get your messages. And of course, being such a dedicated follower of *Finding Your Roots*, instilled in me by my maternal Grandfather, who started me on the adventure of KNOWING one's ancestors, and his phrase, 'If you know their names, they are not forgotten.

Cousin Donna Crosby

Dear Cousin Mike,

Loved reading the newsletter. Informative. Thank you for welcoming me. My last name is spelled Baron.

Cousin Gaye Baron

Ed Note: Drat – re-welcomed with proper spelling in this issue.

Dear Editor Mike,

This was an excellent issue. I really enjoyed Ann's Governor's notes and the excerpt re the book on William White. You do a great

job getting the stories and compiling each issue.

Barbara Welch, Delaware Society

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

2021-2026 SOCIETY OFFICERS

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DEPUTY GOVERNOR
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TREASURER
SUSIE WUEST

HISTORIAN
BARBARA WILLIAMS

CAPTAIN
CHARLES PROVOST

ELDER
KENNETH WHITMORE, JR.

You're invited to
The Pilgrim William White Society
2026 Triennial Meeting & Dinner

Friday, September 11, 2026
5:30 pm
Hotel 1620 Plymouth Harbor
180 Water St.
Plymouth, MA 02360

Event info

The TPWWS meeting will be held at Hotel 1620. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Following our short business meeting and program, we will proceed on foot for the 4-minute walk to the Lobster Hut at 25 Town Wharf. You will order and pay for your individual dinner selection before being seated in an area reserved for our group.

Program info

Book Review and Discussion of *In Search of Mayflower Pilgrim William White of Wisbech*.

This new biography by White family expert Sue Allan is available now from American Ancestors at <https://shop.americanancestors.org>

Dinner info

The Lobster Hut offers an amazing selection of fried, broiled, steamed, or baked seafood, as well as items such as chicken, salads, chowders, burgers, and hot dogs. As a guideline, prices range from \$6.50 for a chicken sandwich to \$36.95 for a Fisherman's Platter. Many lobster and crab items are at "market price."

In order to reserve our seating area at the Lobster Hut, please RSVP your intention to attend to

Barbara Williams, Historian

Email: gsmdhistoricsites@gmail.com

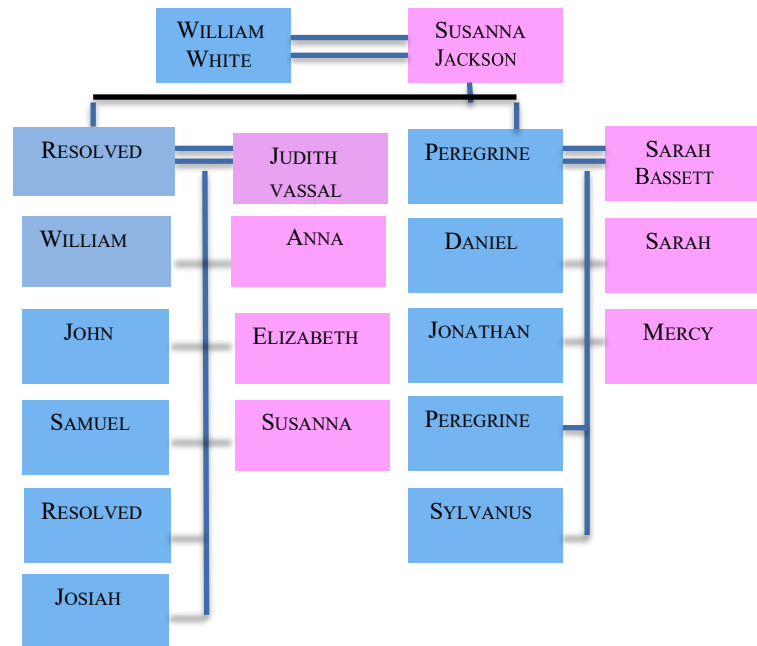
It will be helpful to have an approximate count of members and guests by September 8, 2026.

For any questions or special dietary concerns, please contact Ann Wilkerson

Email: annwilkerson@comcast.net

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
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