Society News

The Pilgrim William White Society

An Endorsed Family Society
Of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants

Established 2013

Volume XIV | October 2026 | Number 4

Message from the Governor

Dear Cousins,

I am honored to serve as the fifth Governor of the Pilgrim William White Society. So much new information about the ancestry of Susanna and William White has been discovered since the formation of our Society thirteen years ago! These historical and genealogical discoveries greatly increase our understanding of Susanna and William White, and increase our appreciation of the sacrifices they made. I look forward to the future of our Society.

Our triennial meeting of the Pilgrim William White Society occurred on Friday, September 11, 2026, in Plymouth, MA. It was a time to renew old friendships and to meet new cousins. After a short business meeting, we discussed Sue Allan's newest book entitled "In Search of Mayflower Pilgrim William White". You can purchase a copy of the book at AmericanAncestors.org. On behalf of our entire William White Society, we want to thank Sue Allan for her research and her hard work in writing this book about our ancestor, William White.

The GSMD Congress took place in Plymouth, MA, on Sunday, September 13th thru Tuesday, September 15th. On Sunday the Pilgrims Progress Walk was held. Many walked up Leyden Street and Court Street to Plymouth Hall, and some people were in costume. The weather did not cooperate - it was heavy, heavy rain! On Monday, reports were given, and on Tuesday the by-law changes were discussed and the election of new officers was held. The by-law changes were minor and all easily passed. The election of new officers was lively. Our cousin, Alan Smith was elected to the Executive Committee as Elder General. I was elected as Captain General. We both look forward to serving on the Executive Committee of GSMD.

Chuck Provost



Governor Chuck Provost

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Cousins Gather in Plymouth



Triennial Meeting Minutes

By Betsie Gricar, Recording Secretary

Governor Ann Wilkerson called to order the meeting at 5:30 pm in the Carver Room of the 1620 Hotel.

Invocation and table blessing was given by Elder Pro Tem & Past Governor D. Alan Smith.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was led by Captain Charles Provost.

Governor Wilkerson introduced the Board members and a very special member, Marylen Jackson who is 100+ years old.

A motion to waive the reading of the minutes, which had already been distributed to members, was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. When asked, members offered no editorial comments.

Governor Wilkerson shared an invitation from the Soule Kindred to join them on a tour on Sept 12.

The Governor's Report was given by Governor Wilkerson and the Financial Report was given by Treasurer Susie Wuest.

The Memorial Service, honoring 15 members (including Organizing Deputy Governor), was given by Elder Pro Tem D. Alan Smith.

The election of officers was held and installation of the new officers occurred.

A door prize of a Meeting House tray, made from a roof tile from the 1897 Meeting House presented to PWWS after our donation, was won by Barbara Bliven.



Members & Guests each received a gift bag with Dutch tulip bulbs and a copy of the new PWWS brochure.

The Program was a discussion of the book *In Search of Pilgrim William White of Wisbech* by Sue Allan and was lively and informative.

Benediction was given by Elder Pro Tem & Past Gov D. Alan Smith.

Adjournment followed by a group photo.

All then went to Lobster Hut for dinner.

NOTES:

1. 213 members since founding 2013
2. Donations from our society were given to GSMD Society Membership, GSMD Meeting House, Plimoth-Patuxet Museum, Pilgrim Hall Museum, and Westport Historical Society.
3. You have received 55 newsletters published quarterly by Editor Michael Beard
4. New PWWS brochures are now available.
5. Insignia orders should be sent to citypridelt d.com
6. In lieu of waiting another 3 years to connect members, Zoom Presentations are in the works.

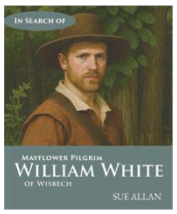




Previous and current board members at our meeting: Front: Betsie Gricar, Chuck Provost, Ann Wilkerson Rear: Alan Smith, Susie Wuest

Program Questions

The program at our September 11, 2026 meeting was a discussion of the newest book by Sue Allan: *In Search of Mayflower Pilgrim William White of Wisbech*. Here are the group discussion questions.



How have you felt about William dying so soon after reaching Plymouth? Does his pre-Mayflower story as told in this book help to mitigate that?

How would you describe the Fenlands, an area that straddles the counties of Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, and Norfolk?

William was an orphan raised by his maternal grandmother. Would you describe his childhood as impoverished or comfortable? How would he have been affected by his parents' deaths?

Did the author provide a vivid picture of Wisbech, the school and streets William would have walked? Would you like to visit and follow those footsteps?

England under King James I had no tolerance for differing religious viewpoints. Would you have stayed and faced imprisonment or death or would you have left for Amsterdam to no longer be English?

The excommunication of William from the English Church led to our knowledge of his profession. What do you think of the life of a shoemaker?

Susanna was in her third trimester of pregnancy when she boarded the Mayflower. Discuss the emotional and physical hazards they faced on board.

In American History, we were taught the theory of "Manifest Destiny." With William's death and the deaths of 51 other passengers, does that change the story of America's success?

Sue Allan chooses real people for the images on her book covers. Does descendant Stephen Provost resemble your idea of what William would have looked like?

My Mother

By cousin Chuck Provost

I would like to introduce one of our newest "Friend" members, my mother Doris Provost. Doris Provost (age 97) has lived most of her adult life in Wauseon, Ohio.



Doris has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. She was married to James Provost for 64 years. Before retirement she worked in the insurance business. Doris worked as an historical interpreter at Sauder Village in Northwest Ohio for over 20 years. She also appeared in a TV documentary about one room schoolhouses on PBS Bowling Green affiliate channel. She attended a one room schoolhouse in first and second grade.

Her many hobbies and activities keep her busy. Her hobbies include knitting, sewing doll clothes, jigsaw puzzles and sporting events. Her activities include card clubs, mahjong club, Senior Center, Methodist Church prayer chain and

entertaining friends. Doris is a descendant of Resolved White through his youngest son Josiah, who married Remember Read. Six generations of White family continues from William White to Danforth White, who lived in Windsor, Berkshire County, MA. The next six generations to Doris have the surnames Kennedy, Powers, Brink and Keefer.

Spotted at the Bookstore

By Ann Wilkerson

Sue's books in the front window and also in the store.





Standing Tall On Broadway

By Cousin Carol Young

The background poster of a NYC Broadway Show we went to, *3 Tall Women*. We're all tall so we got lots of comments -- 3 tall Resolved White descendants: Carol Cosad Young and daughters, Melissa and Stephanie.



Forefather's Day

By Cousin Helen Krispien

You might not be able to hear the roaring blast of three cannon shots at 6 am from the top of Cole's Hill in Plymouth on a chilly December 22nd morning, but the spirit and symbolism of Forefather's Day is a time-honored tradition that has reverberated through the centuries in honor of the landing of the Mayflower in Plymouth in 1620.

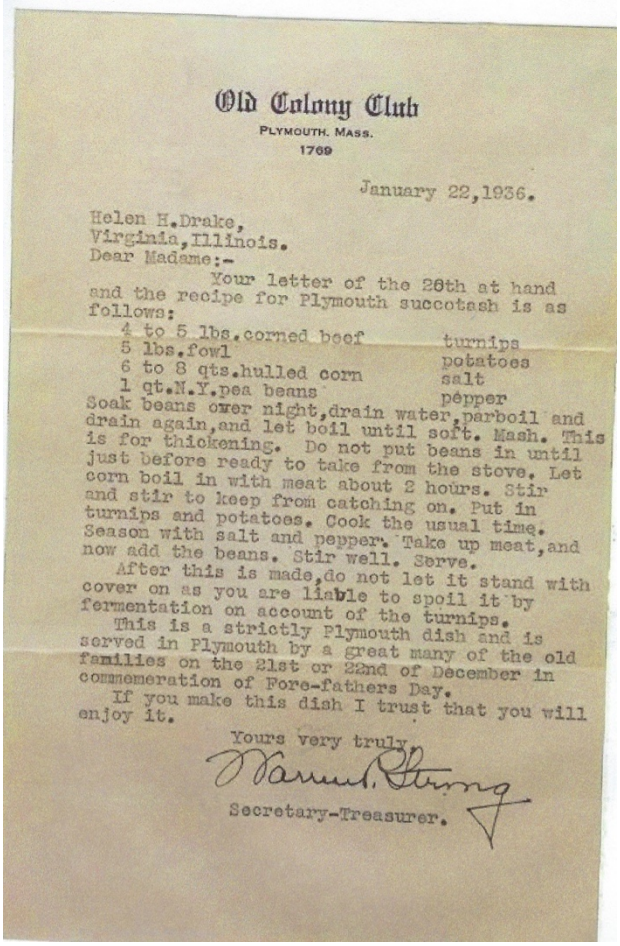
Forefather's Day first began on December 22, 1769 and it is like clockwork each year, the President, of the Old Colony Club, which is a private men's social club in Plymouth, and its members dress in 19th century top hats and tails and fire the commemorative cannon that has historic significance and lead all those brave enough to come out on a wintry morning to observe this dramatic event to join in a rousing, traditional "Hurrah" chant. However, the ceremony would not be complete without the symbolic gesture of the reading of the Mayflower Compact.



According to historian, James Baker, a former President to the Old Colony Club, there originally was only one shot fired, but then in the 2000's a member suggested firing three shots; the first shot honors the past and shows the grit of the Pilgrims, the second shot honors the present and stands for peace and comfort for the community, and the third shot embraces hope and genuine good fortune for future generations.

After the procession, a private breakfast of Plymouth Succotash is held for members only where they enjoy a hearty dish of heavy gravy-style soup consisting of traditional beans and other savory foodstuffs. But, fear not for this meal can be enjoyed if you follow this 1936 Colony

Club in the comfort of your own kitchen and perhaps grace your very own Thanksgiving table with a traditional Plymouth dish. Recipe courtesy of James Baker.



Old Colony Club
PLYMOUTH. MASS.
1769

January 22,1936.

Helen H.Drake,
Virginia,Illinois.
Dear Madame:-

Your letter of the 20th at hand and the recipe for Plymouth succotash is as follows:

4 to 5 lbs.corned beef	turnips
5 lbs.fowl	potatoes
6 to 8 qts.hulled corn	salt
1 qt.N.Y.pea beans	pepper

Soak beans over night,drain water,parboil and drain again,and let boil until soft. Mash. This is for thickening. Do not put beans in until just before ready to take from the stove. Let corn boil in with meat about 2 hours. Stir and stir to keep from catching on. Put in turnips and potatoes. Cook the usual time. Season with salt and pepper. Take up meat,and now add the beans. Stir well. Serve.

After this is made,do not let it stand with cover on as you are liable to spoil it by fermentation on account of the turnips.

This is a strictly Plymouth dish and is served in Plymouth by a great many of the old families on the 21st or 22nd of December in commemeration of Fore-fathers Day.

If you make this dish I trust that you will enjoy it.

Yours very truly,

Samuel Young

Secretary-Treasurer.

Well Connected

By *Cousin Denise Recupe*

Looking for Revolution connections, I found out that my 5th great grandfather, Lt. Nathaniel Pearson Sr. of Newbury, Massachusetts was first a private, then sergeant, and finally Lieutenant.

Additionally, I found Benedict Arnold, the famous traitor to George Washington and the revolution, is my 3rd cousin 8x removed.

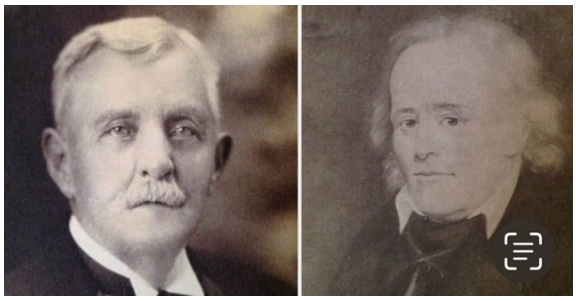
Lastly, President George Washington is my 5th cousin 9x removed; John Quincy Adams, 6th President is my 4th cousin 7x removed; and Thomas Jefferson 3rd President is my 5th cousin 6x removed.

I continue to discover famous connections to using Ancestry.com and Family Search. -- It's fascinating!

Veterans' Day

By Cousin Carol Young

Thanks to my great grandfather, John H. Messenger, and my 3rd great grandfather David Southwick (a descendant of William and Susanna White) for serving our country in the Civil War and the War of 1812**.**
Happy Veterans Day 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸



Cousins at SUVCW Encampment



Descendants of Resolved White meet at the 145th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Past Commander-in-Chief Tad Campbell and National Treasurer Michael Beard. Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, August 2026.

Meeting House Renovations

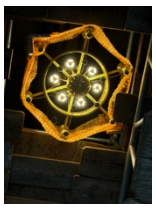
By Ann Wilkerson

The *Mayflower* Meeting House is planned to be an immersive visitor's center and museum which will tell our ancestors' story. The Pilgrim William White Society has pledged funding for this meaningful project.

At the conclusion of the meetings at Congress, Pilgrim William White Society Governor Chuck Provost and I visited the construction site and would like to share with you some impressions.



This plaque shows the ministers of the First Church and includes the ministers that would have been known to Susanna and William in Scrooby and then in Amsterdam.



Chandelier raised and wrapped in orange bubble wrap

Chuck and I sitting on a pew section to which the Society has pledged our donation. There will be a plaque designating our donations as a tribute to both William and Susanna.





Pews wrapped in protective plastic



A view of the chancel





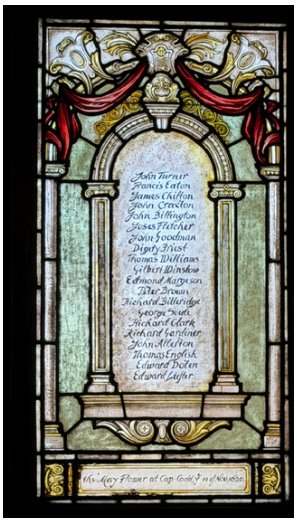
Plaster and mosaic tile repair and carved wooden beams with "grotesque" like in European churches



Stairs to the Tower

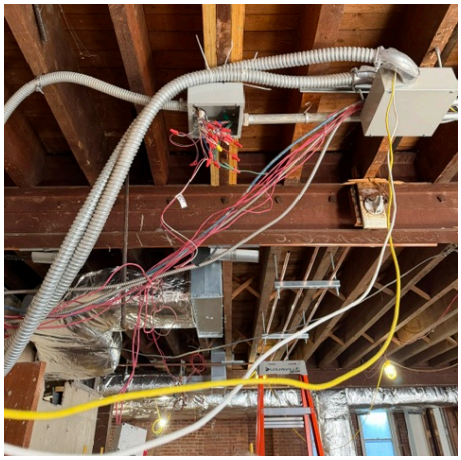


Past Governor General Lisa Pennington standing on plywood to point out where the interactive displays will be.

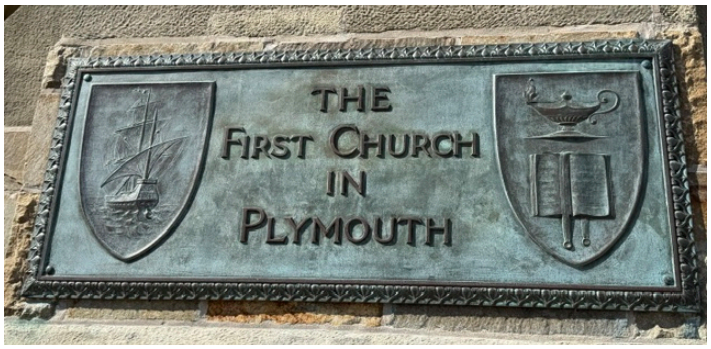




Stained glass windows showing *Mayflower* names (but not William) and the destruction of Pilgrim Press in Leiden



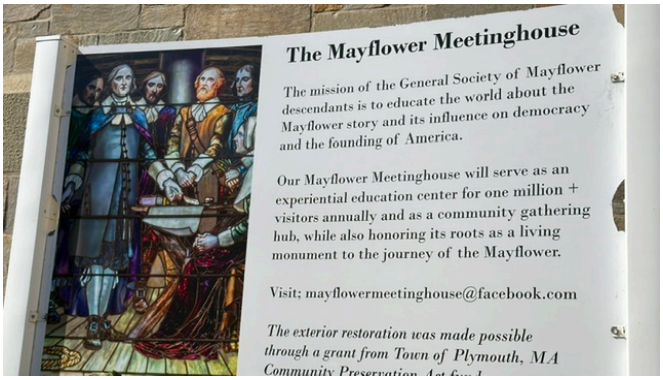
Do any electricians understand this bundle of wires?







Current church built in 1897.



Meeting House Project mission Statement

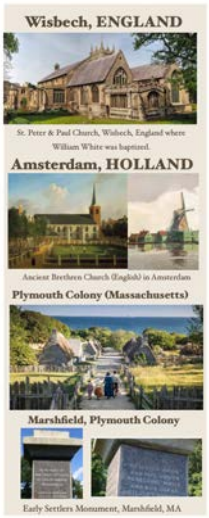
Society Brochure

For the Congress, the Society created and distributed a Pilgrim Willaim White Society tri-fold brochure.

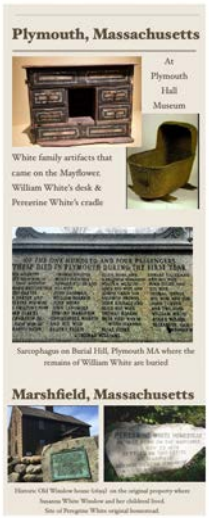












A printable download is available on our website.

Peregrine's Apple Tree

By Ann Wilkerson

While touring the American Ancestors Building in Boston (home to Dr. Henry Louis Gates of "Finding Your Roots"), I was surprised and delighted to see this exhibit related to my ancestor Peregrine. Here is the applewood cane from Peregrine's tree that was donated in 1872.



Peregrine White and an applewood cane stem from an iconic piece of American colonial history. As an adult living in Marshfield, Massachusetts, Peregrine White became an avid farmer and is credited with planting one of the very first apple orchards in the Plymouth Colony. His historic apple tree stood for centuries, becoming a celebrated landmark. When branches of this landmark tree finally succumbed to old age and decayed in the 19th century, pieces of the historic applewood were salvaged. In the 1800s, craftsmen used the wood to carve commemorative canes, walking sticks, and



relics. These items are highly prized by *Mayflower* descendants and historical societies as direct physical links to the first generation of Pilgrims.

Final Pilgrimage

Lila Bond, 93, of Windsor, Colorado passed away peacefully on June 27, 2026, in Loveland, Colorado. She was born September 17, 1932, in Ansley, Nebraska, to Herbert and Hazel (Allen) Hollenbeck. When she was 10, the family moved to Pavillion, Wyoming, where she lived until she graduated in 1950. On May 6, 1951, she married Jack Bond.



Lila kept the books for Jack's businesses as they moved through life together, from mining, to land development, to ranching in Nebraska. At 54 years old, when most people are settling down, Lila learned to fly and earned her private pilot's license.

She was an avid golfer, a devoted member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Mayflower Society, and a dedicated genealogist who treasured the threads connecting her family across generations. Lila didn't just have roots, she had documentation. That love of heritage took her all the way to Ireland with her two sisters, three women chasing down their roots in the old country and laughing the whole way there.

She is survived by her children, Kathy (Larry) Lightle, Larry (Karen) Bond, Jackie (Kent) Crawford, and Randy (Vickie) Bond; 10 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and more friends and family than even she could fit on her family tree.



Mary Jo Stelk Corboy recently passed away near Seattle, WA, where she had moved to be closer to her daughter. She passed on April 5th with her three children by her side after a wonderful life as a nurse, mom and grandmother. Final celebrations of life will be held in Honolulu on June 28th. Mary Jo was born in Valparaiso, Indiana, on August 6, 1941, and lived an idyllic life on Flint Lake with her parents, Harold (Hap) and Jo Stelk. After high school she attended Presbyterian - St Luke's Hospital for nursing training. It was there that she met a young medical intern from Honolulu and married Dr. John M Corboy in 1967. Their lives were full of kids, travel, adventures, and Mary Jo loved her Hawaiian life, taking hula classes for many years. After 25 years of marriage, the couple divorced, and she continued a life of part-time nursing, her children's activities, and feeding everyone who dropped by their home. She and her boyfriend of 27 years, Mark McCullough, loved entertaining, their cats, and on mainland river trips and European travels with the family. Mark predeceased her in October 29th of 2024 and will be part of her life celebration. Mary Jo is survived by her children: David, Heidi (George Canon V), and Matt (Kara) and seven grandchildren:





Welcome New Members

Mary Catherine Rafferty Hertzog - Resolved

Doris Provost – Resolved

Janice Lawrence Pollard – Resolved

James Douglas White - Peregrine

Letters to the Editor

Dear Cousin Mike,

Enjoyed this issue—good information and well put together. Thank you!

Cousin Denise Panter

Your letter here – in the January newsletter!

2026-2029
SOCIETY OFFICERS

GOVERNOR
CHUCK PROVOST

DEPUTY GOVERNOR
BETSY GRICAR

RECORDING SECRETARY
ANN WILKERSON

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
PATRICK WHITE

TREASURER
SUSIE WUEST

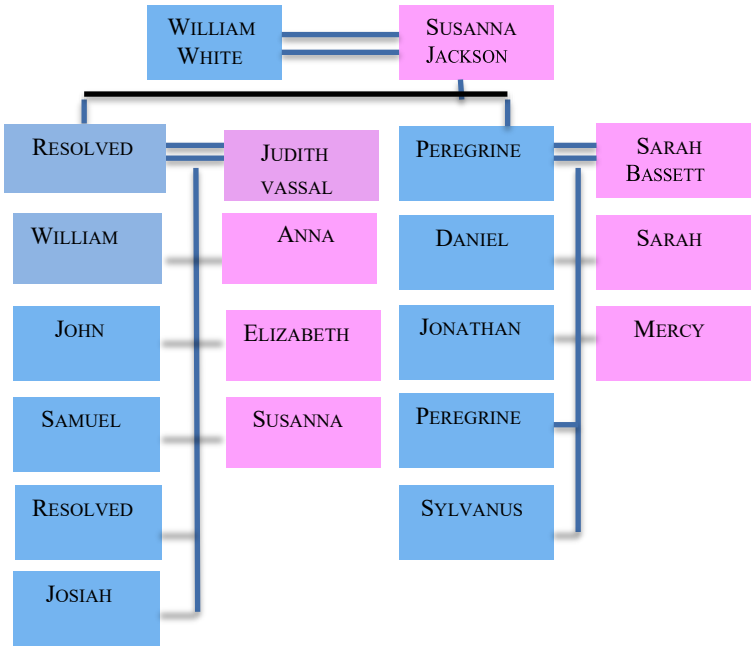
HISTORIAN
BARBARA WILLIAMS

CAPTAIN
ALAN SMITH

ELDER
KENNETH WHITMORE, JR.

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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