



**The PILGRIM WILLIAM WHITE  
SOCIETY NEWS  
Est. 2013**

**Vol. 4, No. 1 30 January 2016**

**Pat Nichols, Editor**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE**

Happy New Year!

We're off to a running start with our Treasurer collecting 2016 dues. Right after Christmas may not be a good time to collect dues as some may be sort on funds; but it also happens to be the end and new beginning of the Society's fiscal year; so it has to be done. We have not raised dues since the founding of the Society. They are still \$15. We appreciate so much your sending your dues when asked. We have not yet established a life membership, but you are welcome to pay yearly dues in advance if you wish.

The Education Committee sent books and a couple of worksheets to our four young friends prior to Thanksgiving. These young people (or their parents or grandparents for them) also pay \$15 per year in dues and the money is designated for educating them about our Pilgrim ancestors. Pictures with articles about our young friends are contained in this newsletter.

During the Thanksgiving season, some of our members dressed in costumes and visited schools while others arranged displays in local libraries. If you do something special around Thanksgiving to perpetuate the memory of our Pilgrim ancestors, please share it with us as we are always looking for new ideas.

A special "thank you" to David Grinnell and the Lineage Review Committee. Several people with the name of White contacted us during the year; however, as much as we would like for them to be (and they would like to be), they are not always descendants of our William White. Our present membership stands at 98.

Looking forward to our next newsletter, member James Fowler is going to relay information he learns from a seminar at the Maryland Historical Society on how to assemble, write, and publish a family history. If you inherited a family history, you are very lucky. If you did not, why not make one for your descendants?

Best wishes for good health and a happy heart in 2016!

*Prarie*



**Governor Prarie Counce**

**In this issue**

<b>Governor's Message</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Thanksgiving Program</b>	
<b>Reviews, Pilgrim Hall</b>	
<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>2, 3</b>
<b>The Newseum</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>White Friends Enjoy Pilgrim Books</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Eileen Patch's African Adventure</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Spotlight on Barbara Bateman</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Looking Back</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Legal Disclaimer, Officers</b>	<b>12</b>

## Editors Note:

I never know what to expect when an issue starts coming together. I think this issue rightly focuses on our family, past and present. We have articles about our Pilgrim ancestors and about our descendants and our winter holidays.

In the Winter issue we asked our members who watched the special Pilgrim Thanksgiving programming to provide their commentary.

### **“Saints and Strangers” vs “American Experience: The Pilgrims”**

The day before National Geographic’s “Saints & Strangers” aired, *The Washington Post’s* TV critic, Hank Stuever, wrote, “The story begins, as it must, with the filth and scurvy-ridden horrors within the Mayflower itself (one imagines the director yelling: ‘More Filth! More scurvy! More vomit!’); with adults and children dying right and left as the sea tosses them up and down. The dying doesn’t stop once they’re on land, either.”

Stuever’s review continues, “Although I love the idea of telling the Pilgrim story in a grim, more accurate way, ‘Saints & Strangers’ still falls prey to some usual miniseries melodrama and awkward exposition. It loses momentum in its first half and is burdened with dialogue that seems to have been whittled from the twigs.”

Although I’m not a historian, I’m not convinced the story was told in a “more accurate way.”

He notes that “Much of this four-hour story involves the colonists’ constant debate about whether to wage war with the ‘savages’ or to try to broker an accord. Listening to them have the same argument over and over gets old. ‘Saints & Strangers’ is at its best and the most original when delving into the native side of the story, smartly and even sensitively portraying the ways in which the English settlers plopped themselves down right in the middle of a power struggle between the Pokanoket and Narragansett tribes.”

Stuever concludes, “Four hours of hard suffering may seem a bit much, but if it makes you feel a tiny bit more grateful to see it from the comforts of your couch, then it’s worth it.”

Personally, I found it more drama than documentary and seemingly lacking in historical accuracy. Offering dialogue as if it was actually spoken does not aid in telling the Pilgrim story in a more “accurate way.”

As “American Experience: The Pilgrims” points out, William Bradford’s journal is the most comprehensive documentation of the period but still has voids. The two-hour PBS documentary struck me as far more factual and satisfying in telling the story of the Mayflower Pilgrims quoting directly from Bradford’s writings rather than having a script writer create dialogue.

I enjoyed Stuever’s review of “Saints & Strangers” more than the show and regret that he did not to review “American Experience: The Pilgrims.” From my perspective PBS offered the public a much better understanding of the Pilgrims’ experience in Plymouth.

Unfortunately, neither production portrayed the Pilgrims as trading and living peaceably with the Indians in Plymouth for the first 55 years. Connie Baxter Marlow and Andrew Cameron Bailey spoke at the Maryland Mayflower Society Compact Dinner November 22, 2015 and described their documentary film, historical novel and dramatic screenplay “The First Fifty Years: Freedom and Friendship at Plymouth Plantation.” It details the friendship between the Mayflower Pilgrims and the Pokanoket Wampanoag Indians in the Plymouth colony between 1621 and 1675. “This project brings America’s origin story into balance and honors the Mayflower Pilgrims and the American Indians for their role in the evolution of democracy and the American mind and spirit,” they say. “It attempts to heal blame, shame, anger and guilt stemming from misinformation and misunderstanding concerning the first 50 years in Plymouth.”

*Jim Fowler*

November 30, 2015

A review of the National Geographic mini series called it the Game of Thrones comes to Plimoth. Fortunately they left the violent sex out, but it was a fair comparison. My grandchildren both loved it, esp. baby Peregrine. Although Kirksey did ask, "Where is Resolved?" She approved of the Edward and Susannah wedding. Edward was not as prominent as he should have been. The Ric Burns documentary did add the background of the Pilgrims in England. Over all, the Burns was the more accurate, but National Geographic had the pizzazz missing in Burns. In short, both had their strengths and weaknesses. The common strength was the grinding suffering of coming to the new world and the difficulties in settling into a new life. I have bought the Ric Burns documentary. I don't know if I would buy the mini series on National Geographic.

## *D Alan Smith*

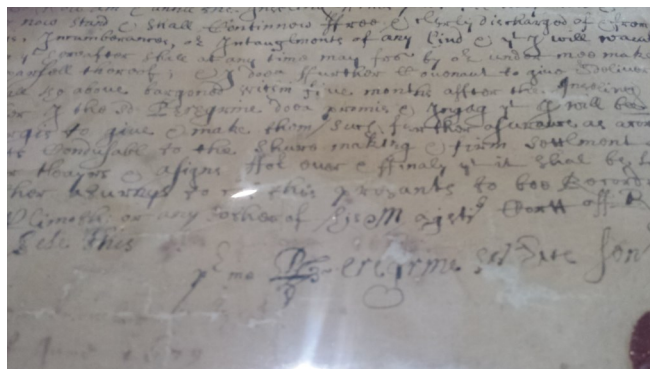
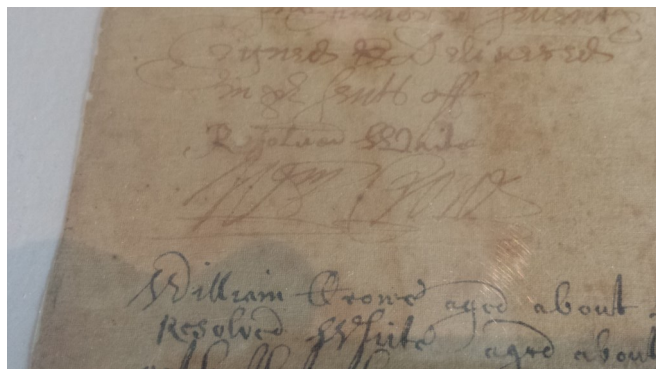
Another of our members sent this along after his visit to Pilgrim Hall Museum

On 11/27/15, I visited the Pilgrim Hall Museum for their display of signatures from persons present at the first Thanksgiving. This exhibit was for 2 days only. It unveiled Thanksgiving Day and was viewable until the day after. After the exhibit, they went back into the archives. According to the Stephen O'Neill, curator Pilgrim Hall Museum, it has become an annual event. Signatures displayed included Massasoit, John Alden, Myles Standish, William Brewster, William Bradford and Edward Winslow. Seeing the signature of Massasoit was incredible. His signature is quite rare and a treat indeed.

The curator added value to the event by having a large display of presidential signatures, which included: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, James Monroe and John Hancock. If that was not enough, he had an original first edition of Mourt's Relation and Peregrine White's will prominently displayed as centerpieces. Next year, be sure to visit the Pilgrim Hall Museum and see them for yourself. To actually hold these documents in my hands is something I will always cherish.

Keeping History Alive,

## *John Joseph White*



## White Descendant Designs Newseum

A relatively new building, located in Washington, DC, is the Newseum. The architectural firm was Polshek Partners of New York City and the projects lead design architects were Jim Polshek and Robert D. Young, Jr. whose father is a member of the Pilgrim William White Society. Exhibition designer was Ralph Appelbaum Associates. The Newseum -- a 250,000 square foot museum of news -- offers visitors an experience that blends five centuries with up-to-the-second technology and hands-on exhibits.

The Newseum is located at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Sixth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., on America's Main Street between the White House and the U.S. Capitol. The exterior's unique architectural features include a 74-foot-high marble engraving of the First Amendment and an immense front wall of glass through which passers-by can watch the museum fulfill its mission of providing a forum where the media and the public can gain a better understanding of each other.

The Newseum features seven levels of galleries, theatres, retail spaces and visitor services. It offers a unique environment that takes museum goers behind the scenes to experience how and why news is made.

The design of the new Museum is a brash study of contrasts with the august architecture surrounding its prominent Pennsylvania Avenue address, almost all glass versus almost all stone. "We wanted to be the opposite of Washington aesthetic," said Robert Young, the associate partner in charge of the project, "open, accessible, easy to get into." It comes with a large LED media screen to project up-to-the-minute news and other news-related images. -- the equivalent of a giant television set facing the "nation's Main Street." Equally important is the location: front and center on the inaugural parade route, close by major federal buildings and the cultural institutions of the Mall. This site on Pennsylvania Avenue really opens the door to educating millions of people over the next century about the importance of the First Amendment and a free press.

(From the Washington Post)

"It is actually a history museum disguised as a media retrospective. Eight giant, forbidding sections of the Berlin Wall -- stark concrete on the Communist side, graffiti-covered on the Western side -- are proof of that. History also oozes from the photos and videos that recall disasters from the Hindenburg explosion to the JFK assassination to 9/11. But none of these images is quite as heart-stopping as the spire of mangled, twisted steel that had been the communications tower atop the World Trade Center, and a huge limestone chunk of the Pentagon from the day of the attacks."

"Visitors will come away with a better understanding of news and the important role it plays in all of our lives," said Newseum Executive Director and Senior Vice President Joe Urschel. "The new Newseum is educational, inspirational and a whole lot of fun."



L—R

Bob, Joan, and son  
Robert D Young  
Jr.





## William White Friends Enjoy Reading about their Pilgrim Ancestors

Ben and Lena Danford were very excited to receive the books from the Pilgrim William White Society. They loved reading them this year and plan to donate the books to the library where they go to school. They both became Junior members of the Mayflower Society last year and attended their first Compact Day Luncheon this past November. Lena is in the third grade. She plays basketball, takes art lessons and computer programming lessons and is a finalist in her school's UIL Writing Competition. Ben is in the first grade this year. He plays basketball as well and is also taking computer programming. They both really appreciated the books. They are both excited to read about their heritage and look forward to learning more.



**Editor's Note:** Ben and Lena are the children of Pilgrim William White descendant Elizabeth Danford and the grandchildren of our Governor Prairie Counce.

## Member Eileen Patch's African Adventure



When Dennis's girlfriend, Julia, told us she would visit Kenya where she grew up and invited us; we accepted as did our other children. Julia planned it all wonderfully. On October 4th Kim, Eric, Dave, Eileen, Den and Chelsea (Julia had

gone a few days earlier) flew from Boston to Amsterdam and from there to Nairobi arriving on October 5th. Julia's sister June and her husband Edward picked us up at the airport and took us to a guest house next to where they live



in Machokos. Kevin and Noi flew in from Bangkok. Next day we all took a bus to a natural history museum in Nairobi where Kevin got us all in this selfie beside artistic sculpture outside the museum. It was a great introduction to birds and mammals of East Africa, some of which we saw the next day at Lake Naivasha. Two boats transported our party on the lake to Crescent Island where we saw many birds and animals without predators.

We enjoyed two days of outstanding hospitality at the farm of Julia's parents, Wesley and Alice where we delighted to see black-

headed weaver birds building nests in a cassia tree. They start by making a ring of sticks and then weave grasses and green leaves to build a bulbous nest with a lower entrance hole. These colonial nesting birds periodically grab the bottom of the nest and flutter their wings at female birds to invite them to mate.

We walked around the farm to see cattle and goats brought in by the shepherds and trees yielding tropical fruits such as mangoes which we see only in stores. We tried foods new to us such as arrowroot, a purplish starchy root, and goat meat & vegetable stew made from a freshly slaughtered goat. We were told and could see how dry it was and water is getting scarcer.







The eldest & youngest generations of family walked the red dirt road to the closest village Mii (pronounced me) shown in photo at left. Donkeys typically carry four barrels of water. While we were there the middle generations led 2 donkeys on a long walk to fetch water for the use of family, servants and shepherds. The village consisted of a couple dozen buildings, one of which Wesley had built of bricks he made himself. It held a grinding mill so local farmers could grind their corn into meal. Water the donkeys carried was not for drinking, so bottled water was available in the village.

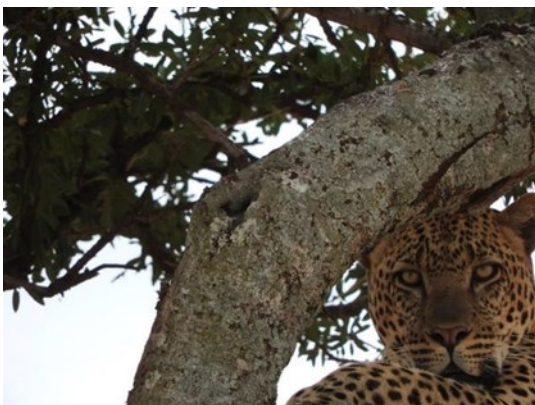


We visited Julia's Uncle Peter and Aunt Joyce and their children and grandchild at their terraced farm which grows sugarcane, bananas and other crops. Their three cows produce bio gas for lighting. After a wonderful buffet of African foods, a surprise birthday cake for Dave's 80th birthday was brought out. According to tradition, Dave fed a piece of cake to every one there.



After traveling to Maasai Mara National Reserve and settling into a lovely Sopa Lodge, we rode in two safari vans with elevated roofs for watching and photographing game. Our driver got a call on his radio from another driver about a lion sighting. Turning the van around, he drove straight to it. The lion was sleeping on a rock near a tree with several vans of people nearby. Our 2 vans joined them and we all took photos. The lion woke up, ignored us and posed nicely as Dave took this photo.

Sharp eyes were lucky to spot two cheetahs resting on a hill quite some distance away. This is an amazing animal able to run up to 75 miles an hour, making it the fastest land animal on earth. On that first trip out from 4 to 6 p.m. we saw four (elephants, lions, rhinoceros and water buffalo) of the so called "big five" animals, which are the ones hardest to find. That left only the elusive leopard to find the next day when we roamed from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with box lunches eaten in the shade of a tree on the Maasai Mara.



Of course we enjoyed many sightings of more prevalent creatures such as zebras, giraffes, wildebeasts, warthogs, ostriches, white-backed and hooded vultures, baboons, water bucks, hippopotamus, and several different antelopes including topi, eland, impala and Thompson's and Grant's gazelles.

This leopard, at let, was hanging out halfway up a tree trying to sleep. Occasionally he would move to get more comfortable and look around. For prey perhaps? When Dave thought he was staring at him he snapped this close-up.



Back in Nairobi we dined at Safari Hotel's spectacular restaurant featuring many roasted meats. Though eating vegetarian entrées, Kim and Eileen tried one bite each of camel and crocodile meats (delicious!), which others shared. The marvelous stage-show had fabulously- costumed dancers (some in zebra stripes) and acrobats moving with fast-beat rhythmic music.

The Patches did other things in 2015, but nothing as memorable as the African trip. Oh, yes, on August 11th Eileen had hip joint replacement surgery. Her therapy ended just in time to make the long - scheduled trip.

May the spirit of love be with you this Christmastide and remain with you all through the New Year.

## *Dave & Eileen*

**Editor's Note:** This was the Christmas letter that William White descendant Eileen Patch sent out to family and friends describing their African adventure. The editor thought you would enjoy the text and pictures.

### **Editor's Lament**



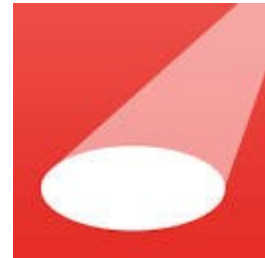
This issue was very challenging to put together and format properly. It took a great deal of additional time as well. We had some great articles submitted. However, I really need all articles to be sent as document files instead of pdf files. I have the ability to convert these files to documents but this creates more problems than it solves. I appreciate seeing how the original document appeared in the pdf version, but I need a document version sent as well. Going forward, please send a word document as a separate file and you will make this editor very happy.

All of that being said, please keep the articles coming!





## Spotlight on Barbara Bateman



My husband's family has five Mayflower ancestors: Chilton, Fuller, Hopkins, Rogers and White. My daughters joined Mayflower Society in 1989. I never had thoughts of joining any patriotic organization as my mother was the only line that I could use. My mother's mother and my father were born and brought up in England.

Back in the nineties my cousin gave me a few names he thought might belong to us. I pursued it after finding a "Deacon Isaac Barnard" and "Maria Barnard" in the census, along with a "Phelix" Myers in the census. I proceeded to write to NEHGS to verify this to be my family. They proved he was my family. They sent me all kinds of documents, starting with John Barnard and Phebe Whiting, who came from Ipswich, England in 1634, down through Maria and Felix.

It wasn't until my sister-in law became the Organizing Regent of her new chapter in Colorado that I was able to get into DAR. She found a Patriot, "Jonathan Barnard" and that was 2008. She proceeded to verify my line. I was also able to find four more Patriots, one of whom was Thomas Nichols married to Bathsheba Marks. After looking at Fold3 and the Revolutionary War records, I found information about Thomas, who had died in 1837. I found 30 pages relating to Thomas and Bathsheba, who was trying to get her pension. A Sally Marks Orcutt wrote a letter to the pension board stating that Bathsheba Marks Nichols was her sister, and she was present at the public meeting publication of the intention of marriage of Thomas Nichols and Bathsheba Marks.

In 2013 and 2014, I went to Salt Lake City. I spoke with several genealogists there and was told to look into land records. I sat at the big screen microfilm looking at multiple Windsor County, Vermont deeds. It seemed futile, until I found 2 deeds, together and both written in the same time frame. One was written by Thomas Nichols and the other by Elisha Orcutt, husband of Sally Marks sister.

When I came back I told my son about what I had found. He looked at them and stated "This is your Proof". Now to prove Adonijah Marks was the son of Hezakiah Marks and Judith Hayward. They are listed in the Mayflower Silver Books.

My son wrote a "Proof Argument". First proving Bathsheba and Thomas were married and proving Bathsheba Nichols was originally Bathsheba Marks, and finally proving Bathsheba was the daughter of Adonijah Marks and Sally Rice Marks and the granddaughter of Hezakiah Marks and Judith Hayward, the latter of Mayflower lineage.

### **Editor's Note:**

This originally appeared in "Chilton News" and is reprinted here with the author's permission.



## LOOKING BACK

As the new year begins for us, we often forget that in England the new year began on March 25. So when William White was dying along with so many others, he was dying along with the old year. He left Susannah, Resolved aged 5 or so, and new born Peregrine. As we remembered Susannah in the last newsletter, we need to remember those young sons without a father and protector in very new world.

Edward Winslow needs to be honored by William's descendants as truly our step grandfather or in 17th century language grandfather in law. Edward was an incredible leader and diplomat to the Native Americans. He was a noted writer who described the first Thanksgiving. He was an honored leader in the Commonwealth in England and entrusted with English fleet. His is the only portrait of a Pilgrim. In short, what could go wrong with him in our family story? If one is a descendant of Peregrine, nothing could be wrong. He was simply our caring grandfather in law. For the descendants of Resolved, the story is not so simple. Resolved, Peregrine, and Susannah had a privileged background with Edward's prominence. When the Winthrop Fleet was arrived to establish the Bay Colony, one of the assistants on board, was the very wealthy, influential leader William Vassall. William's daughter Judith married Resolved on 5 November 1640 in Scituate, Plymouth Colony, where William had moved. Just who was William and why did Resolved find himself between a rock and place after his marriage.

William was the fourth of son of John Vassall, London alderman, gentleman, ship captain against the Spanish Armada. His mother was Anne Russell; her parents are unknown. Many web sources list her as being the daughter of the Earl of Bedford, which is in error as his daughter Anne married the Earl of Warwick. John's father John was Huguenot and is alleged to be a descendant of the ancient French House of Vassall.

There is no proof of his nobility, but the family was able to quickly acquire ships and acceptance. John II provided two ships to the English fleet fighting the Armada. Interestingly, John also owned a ship named the Mayflower. There were many Mayflowers and the Pilgrim Mayflower was another ship. John was also an investor in the Virginia Company. Samuel, William's older brother, was imprisoned for 16 years by Charles I and gave thousands of pounds to the Parliamentarians. Thus here is William who has seen the abuse of his family and countless others by the crowns of France and England because of religion. He has seen his family thrive in England. He is gentry and proud of it. He returned to England in 1630 for five years and then returned with his family. He moves to Plymouth Colony. He is concerned about the future of the colonies and their safe guarding the rights of Englishmen. It is this concern and his being labeled "fractious" that will comprise the next installment.

## *D. Alan Smith*

Deputy Governor

One of our members suggested the PWWS consider offering logo items to its members, such as t shirts, visors, etc. If this interests you and you would consider purchasing such items, please email our

Governor [prariec@me.com](mailto:prariec@me.com)

**The Pilgrim William White Society News** is the official newsletter and the copyrighted property (©2013-2015—all rights reserved) of The Pilgrim William White Society, Inc “TPWWS” a Texas non profit membership corporation formed for educational and patriotic purposes. The newsletter is published four times a year at the end of January, April, July and October.



Please send articles to the editor at her email or postal address. Pictures should be in jpeg format. People and places should be identified so that a caption can accompany the photo. Articles are due on the first of the month of publication, but are gladly accepted at other times.

State Mayflower societies have permission to reprint any information with proper attribution. All others shall contact the editor in writing for permission. All published items reflect the opinions of the authors. TPWWS does not vouch for the accuracy of any information contained in the articles from individuals.

**Pat Nichols**  
310 Clovis Drive  
Georgetown, TX 78628  
[patricia.a.nichols@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.a.nichols@gmail.com)

### **2014-2017 OFFICERS**

**GOVERNOR**  
Prarie Counce  
Carrollton, TX  
[prariec@me.com](mailto:prariec@me.com)

**DEPUTY GOVERNOR**  
D. Alan Smith  
Mesena, GA  
[das1842@icloud.com](mailto:das1842@icloud.com)

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**  
Susie Wuest  
Boca Raton, FL  
[swuest@aol.com](mailto:swuest@aol.com)

**RECORDING SECRETARY**  
Leah Davis  
Conroe, TX  
[ldavis@consolidated.net](mailto:ldavis@consolidated.net)

**TREASURER**  
J. Benese Scherrer  
N. Las Vegas, NV  
[jbscherrer@yahoo.com](mailto:jbscherrer@yahoo.com)

**ELDER**  
Kenneth R. Whittemore, Jr.  
San Diego, CA  
[kenwhittemore@gmail.com](mailto:kenwhittemore@gmail.com)

**HISTORIAN**  
Barbara Williams  
Chester, SC  
[gsmdhistoricsites@gmail.com](mailto:gsmdhistoricsites@gmail.com)

**CAPTAIN**  
Patricia A. Nichols  
Georgetown, TX  
[patricia.a.nichols@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.a.nichols@gmail.com)