



**The PILGRIM WILLIAM WHITE
SOCIETY NEWS
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Pat Nichols, Editor

Dear Pilgrim William White Society Members,

It is very exciting to hear that several of you will be able to attend our Triennial meeting in Plymouth, MA on Monday evening, September 11th at 6:00 pm! The meeting will be held in the "Board Room" of Hotel 1620, located at 180 Water St, Plymouth, MA 02360 (508-747-4900). The only business item so far for which a vote is required is the election of officers. Some of our members will be leaving early to attend a harbor cruise that evening. The rest of us will visit, then dine together at 7:00 pm at the Waterfront Bar & Grill located in Village Landing Marketplace, 170 Water St # 170, Plymouth, MA 02360 (508-591-8393), plymouthwaterfront.com. Waterfront Bar & Grill is just a short walk from Hotel 1620. Thanks so much to Susie Wuest for arranging the dinner reservations for us!

I feel so sad to tell you we have lost another one of our members. Our dear cousin and very first newsletter editor, Richard Wheeler, passed away in February. Richard was so very helpful to me in writing our bylaws, as Richard was an attorney. Richard's brother and our member, Jon Wheeler, has furnished an obituary for Richard. It appears elsewhere in this newsletter. Richard was a Charter member of TPWWS, as is Jon. We dedicate this newsletter to Richard, and we will miss him very much! Our website, thepilgrimwilliamwhitesociety.org, contains all of our newsletters, including the ones Richard produced.

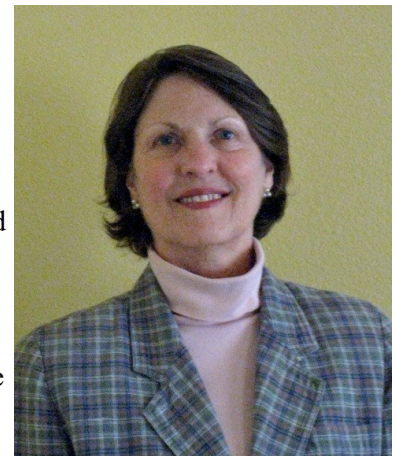
We had some members (6) who did not renew their membership; however, we have several new members who have brought our membership count to 114. Thank you so much for those who regularly pay their dues on time. It makes the job of the Treasurer so much more pleasant and easier!

Did you notice in *The Mayflower Quarterly* magazine that two of our Pilgrim William White Society members have been nominated for GSMD national offices? Yes! Jane Hurt has been recommended by the Nominating Committee for Secretary General AND Elizabeth "Liz" Gaudreau has been recommended by the Nominating Committee for Treasurer General. If you are a delegate for your State Society, please make sure your State Society supports our two cousins!!! Best of luck to both of you!

To our cousins who have been snowed in or stormed on most of the winter and spring, we hope your summer will be much more enjoyable!

Wishing you the best,

Prarie



Governor Prarie Counce

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Editor's Notes

We have some great contributions from our members about memorable females in their line/lines to William and Susanna. I am always fascinated by interesting "connections" that appear during the editing process. Barbara Bowers talks about a connection of her ancestor to third generation William White who lived in Marshfield. My Decrow ancestor lived in Marshfield where his immigrant ancestor settled in 1637. It would seem likely that the Decrow family knew the Whites. Daniel Decrow moved to Maine where he married Azubah Gay. His mother in law was a Hayward and through her I trace my line to William and Susannah through Resolved..

Several of the articles mention family heirlooms which once belonged to one of the females in their lines. These are precious and bring back memories that we associate with family. Susannah traveled on the Mayflower with a cradle for Peregrine as she was very pregnant when the Mayflower left England. This cradle is preserved today in Plymouth. Nancy Peet Gilbert shares a tea set, Prarie Counce has a side board that now resides with her daughter, and I have a small table with a marble top that came from my great grandmother and passed to a daughter in each generation. My great grandmother is my line carrier in her generation. I believe the table was a wedding present from her in laws. Cordelia Decrow Peaslee lived on the Texas Gulf Coast and her in laws lived in Louisville, Kentucky. The underside of the piece of marble has Louisville Kentucky in handwriting followed by Decrow's Point Texas also in handwriting. I think this is today's equivalent of a UPS label. The table survived a trip most likely by boat, a hurricane, and a house fire that I know about. I hope that my granddaughter will value and preserve it and keep it safe for another generation.

Carol Young Attends Annual New York Cousins Dinner

On March 8th, I enjoyed a lovely Mayflower event, the annual Cousins' Dinner. It was held in the second floor ballroom at 3 West 51st Street, Manhattan. Pink balloons with Pilgrims' names marked each table. I was seated at the Warren/White table. I enjoyed meeting the many Warrens but unfortunately, I was the only White descendant. We are a special group! We all enjoyed a 3-course dinner and entertainment by Richard Pickering who is a Warren descendant and works at Plimouth Plantation. I hope you enjoy these photos.

Carol C. Young



Barbara Branch Bowers' White Connection



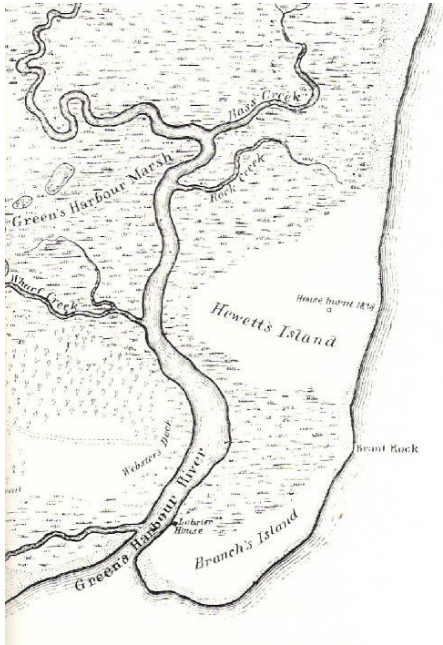
Establishing a new homeland free from religious persecution, escaping economic hardship and fleeing political upheaval motivated Mayflower passengers like William White to brave the Atlantic in 1620. Their growing success in Plymouth understandably caught the ear and inspired the hopes of many during the Great Migration, including Peter Branch, a carpenter in High Holden, Kent. It's little wonder that thoughts of fresh starts and a new life appealed to Peter, having buried two young wives and 6 children who died in infancy over a 12-year span. In 1637 alone, Peter's second wife Mildred, his 3 year old son Thomas and newborn son and namesake were lost to him, leaving him a twice widowed father of his sole surviving child, John.

Less than a year later, having booked passage on the ship *Castle* in 1638, Peter and John were bound for Scituate when tragedy struck a final blow. Peter succumbed to illness while at sea, leaving 11-year old John an orphan en route to the New World. Peter's will, signed onboard the *Castle*, left his estate to John, to be held in trust for 11 years by fellow passenger Thomas Wilburne. Wilburne, a saddler by trade, took John on as an apprentice in his leather-working business, eventually settling in Duxbury and Scituate. Thus a small life in a big, new world began.

During this time, the second generation of White and Winslow family members had secured their place as leaders and prominent landowners in the expanding Massachusetts colony. On 3 November 1671, Resolved White exchanged his landholdings in nearby Namaskett for an island in Marshfield, then owned by John Howland. The island was acquired on behalf of Resolved's eldest son, William White. It is here that John Branch once again appears as "possessed as Tenant unto William White of a Certaine Island Comonly Called Mr. Howlands Island Sittuate att or neare Greens Harbour in Marshfield." (Plymouth Colony, Mass Records of Deeds).

Little is known of William White's life, but it can be conjectured that he suffered from a mental or physical infirmity that prevented him from being self-sufficient. As an unmarried adult, he lived for a time in his uncle Governor Josiah Winslow's home. In his will, Josiah bequeathed to kinsman William White "a bed and sheets at what time he shall leave my wife and family." Later, on 13 March 1684/85 his brothers Samuel and Josiah and their father Resolved quitclaimed the family's Howland Island property to tenant John Branch, with the written understanding that John would "att all times hereafter Maintaine the said William White Providing for & allowing to him Convenient & sutable Meate, Drinke, apparill, washing, & lodging both in sicknese & in health during the Terme of his Naturall Life."

In that moment, former orphan John Branch, now a married father of 8, secured his family legacy as proprietor of Branch's Island in Marshfield, and William White received the care he required until his death at age 54 in 1695. Today, Branch Island has been renamed Brant Rock, MA. If you visit the Old Winslow Burying Ground you will find the Early Settlers of Green Harbor Monument, where Resolved White's name is etched, several names above John Branch's, forever linking the families in a shared history.



Branch's Island, Marshfield Ma
Circa mid 1800's



Early Settlers of Green Harbor
Monument,
Resolved White at top, John Branch at
bottom

The Female Ancestors in my Pilgrim William White Line

By David Grinnell, Lineage Research Chairman



My line from Pilgrim William White:

William¹ White -1620/1621, Peregrine² White 1620-1704, Jonathan³ White 1658-1736/1737, Esther⁴ White ca 1685-1738, Desire⁵ Joyce 1709-1771, William⁶ Arnold 1739-1816, Lydia⁷ Arnold 1769-1861, Ardeliza⁸ Greene 1792-1865, Mary Ann⁹ Handy 1826-1883, Edward Greene¹⁰ Brown 1862-1893, Marie Marble¹¹ Brown 1888-1979, Clairmont Livesey¹² Grinnell, Jr. 1916-1994, David Lawrence Grinnell¹³ 1943-

Esther⁴ White, the daughter of Jonathan³ White and Hester Nickerson, was born ca. 1685 and died in Warwick, Kent, RI 23 July 1738. Esther married first, in Yarmouth, Barnstable, MA 7 November 1707, John Joyce, son of Hosea Joyce and Elizabeth Chipman. Elizabeth Chipman's ancestors include Pilgrim John Howland, his wife Elizabeth Tilley, her father John Tilley and his wife, Joan Hurst Tilley, all Mayflower passengers.

John Joyce died in Yarmouth, Barnstable, MA on 10 January 1714/5. The widow Esther, with her three young children, the youngest of whom was only three years old, needed support and protection; so, Esther married, secondly, in Boston, on 25 June 1719 John Drake, son of John Drake and Sarah King.

Esther's children with John Joyce include John d. Yarmouth 27 December 1710; Desire, born 17 January 1709; and Fear, born 15 February 1712/3; with John Drake; Elizabeth, born 1 March 1724/5 and Francis, born 29 May 1727.¹

Desire⁵ Joyce, the daughter of Esther⁴ White and John Joyce, was born 17 January 1709 in Yarmouth, Barnstable, MA and died in East Greenwich, Kent, RI on 18 July 1771. Desire married, in East Greenwich, Kent, RI 1 March 1732/3, John Arnold, son of Capt. William Arnold and Deliverance Whipple. Some of husband John Arnold's ancestors include Frances Latham (1610 - 1677), a colonial American woman who settled in Rhode Island, and is known as "the Mother of Governors." Having been widowed twice, she had three husbands, and became the ancestor of at least ten governors and three deputy/lieutenant governors, and is related by marriage to an additional six governors and one deputy governor.

Desire's children were Phebe, born 29 April 1734; Barbara, born 16 November 1735; John, born 22 November 1737; William⁶, born 16 December 1739; Elizabeth, born 19 January 1741, Ann, born 4 December 1744; and Sarah, born 14 August 1747. Desire's son William⁶ married Alice Wilcox on 2 May 1765, and they had nine children. William Arnold was a Lt. Colonial in the Revolutionary War, one of my 32 Patriot Ancestors, and the 4th cousin of Benedict Arnold, who was a general during the American Revolutionary War who originally fought for the American Continental Army but defected to the British Army.

One of William⁶ Arnold and Alice Wilcox's children was,

Lydia⁷ Arnold, was born 29 March 1769 in East Greenwich, Kent, RI and died in East Greenwich, Kent, RI on 9 July 1861. Lydia married, in East Greenwich, Kent, RI on 07 October 1790, Jeremiah Greene, the son of Col. Christopher Greene and Ann Lippitt.

Christopher Greene was an American legislator and soldier. He is best known for leading the spirited defense of Fort Mercer in the 1777 Battle of Red Bank, and for leading the African American 1st Rhode Island Regiment during the American Revolutionary War, most notably with distinction in the 1778 Battle of Rhode Island. He was killed in May 1781 at the Battle of Pine's Bridge by Loyalists, possibly because he was known to lead African American troops. Christopher Greene was my first NSSAR Patriot Ancestor. Through his line, I

am descended from Roger Williams, the founder of Providence, and Samuel Gordon, an early settler and civic leader of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations and President of the towns of Providence and Warwick. He was also theologically active, and the leader of a small sect of converts known as Gortonists or Gortonites. He had strong religious beliefs that were contrary to Puritan theology and was very outspoken, and as a result he was frequently in trouble with the civil and church authorities in the New England colonies.

“Lydia (Arnold) Greene petitioned the court for a divorce alleging that soon after their marriage Jeremiah displayed a ‘petulant and morose Disposition which frequently led him to abuse and ill treat’ her. Lydia testified that she had submitted ‘without complaint to the said Jeremiah’s Ill nature Untill the Moroseness of his temper Vented itself in open outrages’ on her, and his cruelty had become ‘Public and Notorious.’ Jeremiah had ‘lately treated her repeatedly and even daily with Extream cruelty so that her life in her connexion with him must be Completely wretched.’ The court treated her allegations very seriously and made unusually specific financial and property stipulations in the divorce decree.”²

Jeremiah Greene was insane. John Waterman of Warwick wrote in his journal for June 1806, “Doct. Jere Greene went to ye fulling mill on ye 22nd Raving Distracted & Early next morning went up ye Road & went into the house of Andrew Arnold who being almost dead with ye dropsy & Seting in his Chare & without any provocation, kill said Arnold. His wife, being in ye other room heard a blow, stepped in, Saw her husband on ye floor. She ran to the Door, called for help, & Green went out & proceeded to ye fulling mill again, was taken up & Committed to Gail ye same Day and about Eleven Oclock at night was found Dead in Gain, Supposed he poisoned himself as pills was found in his poket in a twist of Tobacko, full of mercury.”²

Lydia’s children were Ardeliza, born 5 May 1792; William Arnold, born 9 June 1795; Phebe, born 6 July 1796, Christopher Washington, born 9 April 1798, Alice Ann, born 18 May 1800; and Stephen Arnold, born 20 August 1803. Their first child was:

Ardeliza⁸ Greene was born 5 May 1792 in Coventry, Kent, RI and died in Newport, Newport, RI on 22 January 1865. Ardeliza married, in Bristol, Bristol, RI on 31 January 1811, Pardon Handy, the son of Ebenezer Handy and Jemima Tefft.

Pardon Handy’s ancestors include Joseph Jenckes who settled in Lynn, Massachusetts by 1643, arriving as a widower. On March 6, 1646, he was awarded the first patent in North America by the General Court of Massachusetts, for making scythes. This basic scythe design remained in use for over 300 years. In 1654 he built the first fire engine in North America, commissioned by the city of Boston. The site of the Jenckes forge is at the Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site.

Another of Pardon Handy’s ancestors was William Ballard. On 2 May 1638, Ballard took the “Oath of Freeman”. The following month on 8 Jun 1638, dur the general Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the Court appointed him a magistrate during the session that was held in Newtowne (now Cambridge). William was also elected to the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company.

Ardeliza’s children were Albert, born 16 September 1811; William Arnold, born 1 August 1813; Christopher Greene, born 23 December 1815; Charlotte, born 22 May 1818; Caroline, born 5 August 1820; Lydia Greene, born 18 September 1822; Alice Holmes, born 29 October 1824; and Mary Ann, born 29 September 1826.

Mary Ann⁹ Handy was born 29 September 1826 in Bristol, Bristol, RI and died in Newport, Newport, RI on 30 May 1883. Mary Ann married, in Newport, Newport, RI on 28 October 1846, James Boone Brown, the son of Thomas Brown and Sarah Boone.

James Boone Brown’s ancestors include a second line to Pilgrim William White, through Sylvanus³ White; Pilgrim Francie Cooke; a second line to Pilgrim Richard Warren; and to Lizzie Andrew Borden who was an American woman who gained infamy in being tried and acquitted for the 1892 axe murders of her father and

stepmother in Fall River, Massachusetts. The case was a *cause célèbre* throughout the United States, and memorialized in a popular skipping-rope rhyme sung to the tune of the then-popular song *Ta-ra-ra Boom-de-ay*:

*Lizzie Borden took an axe
And gave her mother forty whacks.
When she saw what she had done,
She gave her father forty-one.*

James's mother, Sarah Boone was a cousin of the famous American frontiersman, Daniel Boone.

Mary Ann's 6th great grandmother was Anne Marbury Hutchinson, a Puritan spiritual adviser, mother of 15, and an important participant in the Antinomian Controversy which shook the infant Massachusetts Bay Colony from 1636 to 1638. Her strong religious convictions were at odds with the established Puritan clergy in the Boston area, and her popularity and charisma helped create a theological schism that threatened to destroy the Puritans' religious community in New England. She was eventually tried and convicted, then banished from the colony with many of her supporters. Anne Marbury Hutchinson is one of my six Gateway Ancestors.

James Boone Brown's 5th great grandmother was Katherine Hamby, another of my Gateway Ancestors.

Mary Ann's children were Edgar H, born 9 August 1850; Thomas Gilbert, born 24 April 1852; Mary Eliza, born 25 November 1853; William Henry, 21 June 1855; Gertrude Teresa, born 27 August 1856; Daniel Greene Handy, born 29 October 1857; Rev. J. Eldred, born 4 January 1861; Edward Greene, born 17 October 1862; Lottie Handy, born 16 September 1866; and James Boone Jr., born. 17 February 1870³.

Edward Greene¹⁰ Brown, born 17 October 1862, died 21 December 1893, married Newport, Newport, RI 17 Apr 1888, Bessie Marble Holland. Their children were Marie Marble, born 31 December 1888 and Bessie Holland born, 17 Apr 1863.

Marie Marble¹¹ Brown was born 31 December 1888 in Newport, Newport, RI and died in Newport, Newport, RI on 28 February 1979. Marie Marble married in Newport, Newport, RI 15 Oct 1912, Clairmont Livesey Grinnell, the son of Robert Jason Grinnell and Clara Belle Peckham.

Clairmont Livesey Grinnell was the 7th great grandson of Pilgrim Richard Warren and the descendant of the following Great Migration immigrants: Samuel Sherman 1601-1644; Thomas Fish 1619-1687; Henry Knowles 1609-1685; Robert Potter 1608-1656; Tristram Dodge 1615-1686; Richard Sawtell 1611-1694; Sgt. James Blood 1600-1683; and Capt. James Parker ca. 1617-1700.

Marie Marble Brown's children were Bessie Marjorie, born 16 Feb 1915; Clairmont Livesey Grinnell, Jr., born 16 December 1916; and Harold Edward Grinnell, born 02 Jun 1926.

Clairmont Livesey¹² Grinnell was born 16 Decembr 1916 in Newport, Newport, RI and died in Middletown, Newport, RI 27 July 1994. He married in Jamestown, Newport, RI on 01 Nov 1938, Mildred Anna Gladding, daughter of William Severance Gladding and Elizabeth Annie Severance.

In researching my father's side of the family, I found Susannah White and many other strong and interesting women.

Mildred Anna Gladding was the descendant of Mayflower passengers: John Alden, Peter Brown, Priscilla Mullins, William Mullins and Henry Samson. She was also descended from Frances Deighton, the founder of Taunton, MA and another of my Gateway Ancestors.

Clairmont Livesey Grinnell and Mildred Anna Gladding had the following children:

Alfred Stuart Grinnell 17 Octobert 1939- 14 Feb 1994

Clair Ronald Grinnell 21 February 1941

David Lawrence¹³ Grinnell 17 September 1943

Roger Lee Grinnell 14 Sep 1946- 14 Dec 2013

1. Factual information for the first five generations has been taken from Mayflower Families Through Five Generations: Family of William White, originally compiled by Ruth Wilder Sherman and Robert Mood Sherman; re-edited by Robert S. Wakefield (GSMD 2006), v:13\
2. Rhode Island Roots, (Warwick, RI: Rhode Island Genealogy Society, 1975) v:28:3:108-111.
3. Clarke, Louise Brownell "The Greenes of Rhode Island" (1903, reprinted 2009 by Higginson Book Co. Salem, MA) p.453



My Strong Women by Carol Young

In researching my father's side of the family, I found Susannah White and many other strong and interesting women. One of these was Copia White 1744-1820, my 4th great grandmother and descendant of William and Susannah. Copia married Jesse Southwick and had a son David before joining the Shaker Community in Hancock, Massachusetts. I have been to this community, which is now open to the public. The women living here had to be very strong as they needed to rely on their own skills to survive in the harsh New England winters.

My 3rd great grandmother, Eunice Deming, also lived in the Shaker community. In about 1800, David was grown, single and living in Junius, NY. Records show that he married Eunice around 1801. My guess is that David's parents contacted him with "have we found a girl for you!" And the rest is history. Luckily, David and Eunice did not remain Shakers as the Shakers did not allow pregnancies and I would not be here to share this story!

Jesse Southwick's 3rd great grandmother, and my 9th great grandmother, was Rebecca Nurse Town who was hung as a witch at age 71. The Crucible by Arthur Miller was based on her story. She must have shown great strength to go through this horror!

Melissa Morse

by Nancy Peet Gilbert

Melissa Morse was a name that I heard from the time I was a little girl. My grandmother revered her as an important ancestor and one to be respected. Grandma (Beulah Van Vranken Hayward) was born in 1893, a teacher college graduate and certainly an intellectual. There were few hugs and I remember only two gifts that she bought me. I still have both. But what pleased Grandma was for me getting a good word in scrabble or talking about ancestors.



Melissa Morse was the name that I heard often. Grandma insisted we were related to Samuel Morse, the inventor and I had hoped to prove this some day. The name Melissa Morse certainly got me into genealogy. A treasure found at grandma's house and finally inherited by me was a huge genealogy chart, printed on big blue paper and researched in 1932 on the Van Vranken's (grandma's maiden name). I would lay on the floor on my tummy, corners of these big pages tacked down to the floor with garden rocks. I would use my finger and trace a Van Vranken distant cousin, named Nancy, like me. I was hooked on genealogy and I was only 10 years old.

Melissa Morse Van Vranken was my great, great, great grandmother. She was born on February 13, 1813 in Gorham, NY. She was the start of my genealogy quest. She married Caleb Van Vranken on January 13, 1830, just a month shy of her 17th birthday. She had eight children, six boys and 2 girls, before she died on June 7, 1845 at age 32. She died shortly after giving birth to her eighth child, James. While she was pregnant with James, her only two daughters, Mehitabel and Lucia also died at ages one and two. These little girls are buried with her and her gravestone says Melissa Morse Van Vranken and daughters, Hettie and Lucie (their nicknames). What grief must have overcome her, during her pregnancy to lose these babies. James only lived to be age 4.

Pilgrim William White was Melissa's great, great, great, great, great grandfather. She descends from William's son, Resolved. There were seven generations of "Whites" in my line until Melissa's mother, Mehitabel married a "Morse". There were a couple Van Vranken men in my line and then the Mayflower line goes all through the women's line - to me, Nancy Peet Gilbert.

While Grandma loved history and was a principal of a school for many years, I never thought of her as a "saver" of family treasures, but she was. As an only child, she inherited many family treasures and they finally came to me with notes in Grandma's hand. I have nothing of Melissa's but do have a Haviland Tea set that came from Melissa's son and daughter in law (Harmon and Miriam Woodhams Van Vranken). I cherish this as many generations of women in my family have cared for this and I have a responsibility to future generations.

While I never found a line to Melissa Morse to Samuel Morse the inventor, her grandfather was Lt. Zebediah Morse and my entrance to DAR. My goal is to continue to talk about my ancestors going back to William and Resolved White as well as Melissa to my children and grandchildren. And someday when I get to heaven, I hope to meet Melissa. Her memory has been a huge part of my life.



Mary White Chamberlain by Prarie Counc

Mary Rebecca White was born in South Salem Westchester County, New York on August 5, 1828 to Isaac Vail White (1793 – 1883) and Mary Bedell Horton White (1803 – 1884). Mary Rebecca had five siblings.

When Mary Rebecca was a child, the family moved to Broome County, New York and lived on a farm near the site of the present city of Binghamton. According to her obituary, Mary Rebecca, at the age of 15 “made her profession of religion...and soon after joined” the M.E. Church. The M.E. (Methodist Episcopal) Church was the first Methodist denomination founded in the United States. In the early 19th century, it was the largest Protestant denomination in the U.S. (Wikipedia)

Mary Rebecca married Park Chamberlain, also from Broome County, NY on March 20, 1844. Park and Mary Rebecca had 10 children while living in Broome County. In 1864 they moved to Wyoming, Iowa, and had two more children. It is believed Park had a fire insurance agency in Wyoming, Iowa.

At some point in Mary’s life, she gave her youngest son, John Richard Chamberlain, a piece of furniture known as a sideboard. Benjamin Emory Chamberlain, son of John Richard Chamberlain, said the sideboard was transported from New York to Clarendon, Texas in a covered wagon. He said the covered wagon overturned during the trip, breaking the top portion (which contained a mirror and bric-a-brac, ie. a couple of small display shelves) off the sideboard. The remaining piece of furniture, the bottom section, now belongs to Mary Rebecca’s great-great-granddaughter and Pilgrim William White Society member, Elizabeth Danford.

When Benjamin Emory Chamberlain was a young boy, he carved his name on the side of one of the drawers of the sideboard. Benjamin (Ben) Gary Danford, son of Elizabeth Danford and great-grandson and name-sake of Benjamin Emory Chamberlain, is pictured with the drawer.



Mary White
Chamberlain and
daughters





Former Utica, New York resident Richard Spice Wheeler, 70 years old, died at his home in Eustis, Florida. he had been a Florida resident since 1983 and was an attorney by profession, but his passions were American history (especially the civil war) and wheeler family genealogy.

Born June 22, 1946, in Utica, he was the eighth of nine children of Everett Jesse Wheeler Sr. and Marjorie Elizabeth Spice who raised all their children in the same house at 72 Prospect Street. Like all his siblings, Richard attended John F. Hughes School and Utica Free Academy, graduating in 1964. in 1968 Richard received a bachelor's degree from Colgate University, his father's alma mater, and in 1971 a juris doctor degree from Albany law school of Union University, where he was an editor of the law review. After graduating from law school and passing the New York bar, Richard served a 2-year appointment as confidential law assistant to the nine justices of the appellate division, fourth department, of the New York state supreme court in Rochester, New York.

From 1973-93, Richard alternated between private practice in large law firms and service in the in-house law departments of large corporations. from 1982-87, he practiced law with Florida's largest law firm, Holland & Knight, in Washington, DC, Orlando, Miami and Tampa, before joining the in-house legal staff at Home Shopping Network, Inc., in Clearwater, Florida. Since June 1993, Richard conducted a solo practice of tax, corporate and estate planning in the Orlando, Florida area.

Richard is survived by two sons, Andrew Colin Wheeler and his wife Christine and their two children Alexander Curtis Wheeler and Nicholas Richard Wheeler and Daniel Ethan Wheeler. Richard was predeceased by his father in 1978, by his mother in 1982, by his oldest brother Everett Jesse Wheeler Jr. of Canton, Connecticut, also in 1982, by his brother Robert Bradford Wheeler, of Whitesboro, New York, in 2016 and by his sisters Nancy Lee Wheeler Lawton of Fairport, New York, in 1997 and Grace Elizabeth Wheeler Thomson of Hudson Falls, New York, in 2006. He is survived by two brothers, the Rev. William Ramsey (Darlene) Wheeler of Boonville and Jon Harold (Collen) Wheeler of Jacksonville, Florida, and two sisters, Marjorie Ann Wheeler (Bruce F.) Larlee of Island Falls, Maine, and Ellen Kay Wheeler (Mrs. James R. Winter) of Fairport, New York, by 22 nieces and nephews, by 38 grand-nieces and nephews.

Richard traced his Wheeler lineage all the way back to Obadiah Wheeler who had been born in 1609 in Cranfield, Bedfordshire, England and who died in 1671 in Concord, Massachusetts. Richard was also a 10th generation direct descendent of Resolved White, who at the age of 5, along with his parents William and Susanna White, were aboard the Mayflower in 1620. Richard was a member of the Mayflower society and Jamestowne society. He was one of the original members of the Pilgrim William White Society providing legal guidance and serving as the original editor of their newsletter.

He was active in the society of Mayflower Descendents in the state of Florida serving as governor of the Richard Warren Colony as editor of the Florida newsletter *The Florida Pilgrim* and as FSMD counsellor and Public Relations chair. In his later years, Richard edited and published several volumes of Wheeler family history, including the bound volume, "Adirondack Life: the Boyhood Journals of Everett Jesse Wheeler of Boonville", which is in the permanent collection of the Erwin Library in Boonville and of the Oneida County Historical Society in Utica. with his brother Jon, he had also traced the history of the Wheeler's "old homestead farm" in Lyonsdale back to their great-grandfather William Sippell Wheeler's purchase of that property in 1861. He wrote and published biographies of their grandfather Jesse John Wheeler (1867-1946) and great-grandfather William Sippell Wheeler (1811-1893).

Richard was a lifelong Episcopalian attending St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Eustis, Florida and when growing up in Utica attending Grace Episcopal Church. He was a devout god-fearing man who tried to live each day of his life as a true Christian. He was also a lifelong New York Giants football fan and used to remind Packer fans that Vince Lombardi started his professional coaching career in the 1950's as an assistant under Jim Lee Howell with the Giants. Richard's favorite saying was one of Lombardi's best quotes: "Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence." That's how Richard tried to live his life ... only god can now judge how well he succeeded.



WHAT IF? by D Alan Smith

This quarter's "what if" constitutes a major alternative history for all of us Mayflower descendants. Suppose the Speedwell had been able to make the journey as originally designed. The future could have been one of several outcomes. The Pilgrims would have arrived at a much better time of the year. Their crops could have been planted; the live stock would have been stronger. The housing could have been built so that the women were not left on the Mayflower during the winter. Rather than only four adult women living by that first Thanksgiving there could have been a pool of healthy, robust group of women. Poor Susanah White Winslow might have been able to enjoy the several days of feasting and not wanting to pull her hair out. I love to cook, but believe me I would have been bald(er) if only three others were helping prepare the several days of meals. The number of descendants could be much larger. Certainly, the number of founders would have been greatly increased. But a larger group of struggling adults could have resulted in even more deaths by straining the food and housing resources of the early settlers. The limited resources could have made Plimoth look like Jamestown where cannibalism was practiced for survival. The idea of my ancestors eating each other makes me shudder. The larger group could have been even more intimidating to the Native Americans, which could have resulted in an even less friendly reception and possible destruction of the colony. But the Pilgrims arriving at a better time would have meant that they did not have to thus eat the seed corn and caused less friction. In short, each change could have resulted in a better outcome or an even worse outcome. The reality is that only the Mayflower came with its sickly passengers at a horrible time of year. Yet these God-fearing frightened determined group of men, women and children laid a foundation of what has become the beacon of hope for all who have followed whether English, French, Scots, Irish, Italian, Korean, Chinese, Arab, and even enslaved African, whom our ancestors fought to free. The list goes on. One thing becomes our duty as their descendants- to celebrate their lives and deaths and then to rededicate ourselves to embody their highest aspirations. In the next series, I will explore incredible but true life of Jean Vassall, Resolved's grandfather-in-law.

D Alan Smith, Deputy Governor

Welcome Our New Members

From Resolved

Patrick Anthony White

Pamela Ellen Steeves

Joan Klock

Christel Marlene Walters

Jacqueline Loraine Arsenault

Mississippi Live Oak Tree Aids in Restoration of Mayflower II

Here is an article that recently appeared in *The Day* publication from New London, CT.

Mystic — The massive live oak trees in Diane Brugger's yard in Pass Christian, Miss., have been life-altering.

After the raging waters of Hurricane Katrina swept her stately three-story inn off its foundation, Brugger found herself clinging to the limbs of two of the centuries-old trees. Her husband had been swept away and killed, and she stayed in the trees for hours, awaiting rescue.

Now, after lightning struck another of the oak trees on her property, Brugger wanted to make sure that tree went to good use and to honor the legacy of her late husband, Tony, a boat lover.

On Wednesday, crews led by Mystic Seaport Shipyard Director Quentin Snediker took down the 200-year-old oak in Brugger's yard, and it is now on a truck back to Mystic Seaport, where it will be shaped into pieces needed for the ongoing restoration of the Mayflower II, the replica of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America in 1620. The ship is owned by Plimoth Plantation in Massachusetts.

"We didn't want it to go to a landfill. We wanted it to go to good use and not be wasted," Kathy Volkman, Brugger's daughter, said on Wednesday about the tree. She said that, after the tree was struck by lightning eight months ago, her mother, a history buff, heard about the Mayflower project from a friend in Connecticut and offered her tree.

That's when Brugger decided it would be a way to honor her husband, a former Marine and Navy reservist who had a lot of interest in old boats. Volkman said her mother had planned a surprise 65th birthday party for her father aboard a local schooner, but he was killed before the trip could take place. Brugger has since rebuilt a small bed-and-breakfast operation on the site of her destroyed inn.

With recent media reports of the tree going to help rebuild the Mayflower, Volkman said her mother has been receiving calls from other people who want to donate their trees as well.

That's good news for Snediker, who has developed a network of people across the southeastern United States who help him identify and acquire wood, especially a species known as live oak. The wood, particularly in large sizes, is prized for fashioning the planks, stems and knees needed to rebuild wooden ships. In addition to the current work on the Mayflower, Snediker has used his network to acquire wood for the construction of the replica of the schooner Amistad and, more recently, the restoration of the whaling ship Charles W. Morgan. Some of the wood used to rebuild the Morgan came from trees felled by Katrina.

Snediker explained that “live oak is highly sought after in wooden shipbuilding because it is very dense, hard, and resists rot better than almost all other species in North America.” He added, “The crooks and curves typical of the trees are ideal for the fabrication of many of the structural parts, as there are few straight lines and right angles on a wooden ship.” Snediker was in Pass Christian on Thursday to see the wood from Brugger’s oak tree being loaded onto a truck. He was then off to Belle Chasse, La., where Whit Perry, Plimoth Plantation’s director of maritime preservation and operations, and Matt Barnes, the Seaport’s lead shipwright on the Mayflower project, were overseeing the cutting and loading of trees being taken down to make way for power lines.

The landowner, Sam Bordelon, said that seeing the trees used for the Mayflower restoration was “a redeeming outcome,” according to a statement from the Seaport and Plimoth Plantation.

“The people here really love these trees. They have a great attachment to them,” said Snediker. “These trees are beautiful, they’re part of the culture and they mean a lot to the community.”

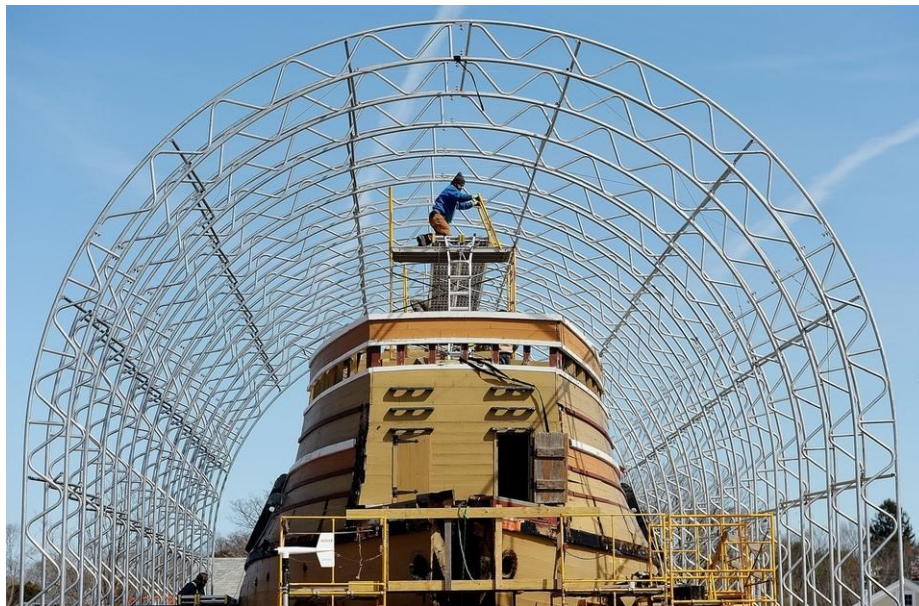
Snediker said that, in all, three truckloads of wood weighing 100 tons will soon arrive in the Seaport shipyard, where they will be sawed into the shapes that are needed.

The Mayflower II, which was built in 1957 and is a major tourist attraction on the Plymouth, Mass., waterfront, is now at the Seaport undergoing a 30-month restoration. Work is scheduled to be complete in time for it to sail again on the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims' voyage.

j.wojtas@theday.com

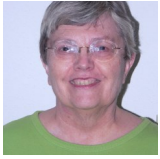
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Thanks to our Leah Davis for locating this interesting story.



Mayflower II March 2017

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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.

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Pat Nichols
310 Clovis Drive
Georgetown, TX 78628
patricia.a.nichols@gmail.com

accuracy of any information contained in the articles from individuals.

2014-2017 OFFICERS

GOVERNOR
Prarie Counce
Carrollton, TX
prariec@me.com

DEPUTY GOVERNOR
D. Alan Smith
Mesena, GA
das1842@icloud.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Susie Wuest
Boca Raton, FL
swuest@aol.com

RECORDING SECRETARY
Leah Davis
Conroe, TX
ldavis@consolidated.net

TREASURER
J. Benese Scherrer
N. Las Vegas, NV
jbscherrer@yahoo.com

ELDER
Kenneth R. Whittemore, Jr.
San Diego, CA
kenwhittemore@gmail.com

HISTORIAN
Barbara Williams
Chester, SC
gsmdhistoricsites@gmail.com

CAPTAIN
Patricia A. Nichols
Georgetown, TX
patricia.a.nichols@gmail.com