



Society News

THE PILGRIM WILLIAM WHITE SOCIETY

AN ENDORSED FAMILY SOCIETY
OF THE GENERAL SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

VOLUME VI

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Message from the Governor

I am a product of the 1960's. I entered junior high in 1960 and entered the Peace Corps in 1969. A byproduct of the 60's is being a joiner; a byproduct of the later generations is not being a joiner with notable exceptions. Those exceptions are centered on short term commitments which must allow and reflect the values of the individual being fulfilled in that activity of that organization. Those organizations failing to understand this worldview will shrink and eventually become irrelevant similar to the fate of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

A primary goal as governor is for us to never become irrelevant by doing things that matter. To accomplish our goals, we as the Society need your input. **What are your dreams and aspirations for us?** Please take time to email me one your dreams. To use that trite phrase, it is about branding and our dreams can drive that branding.

One of our core values is education and cultivation of knowledge about the Mayflower and her pilgrims. When I attend a wreath laying event, there are always other lineage groups presenting their wreath. So, I am constructing a wreath with pink flowers (reflecting mayflowers) and boxwood (reflecting England) with a large bow that is very similar to the ribbon on our medal.

I would encourage anyone who is a member of another organization with wreath laying events to lay a TPWWS wreath. My wording in the acknowledgement in the list



Governor Alan Smith

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of presenters will be The Pilgrim William White Society- an endorsed family society of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

While a lot of words, this statement establishes our purpose honoring William White and Susanna and lists our relationship to GSMD. It also gives GSMD exposure. If you are interested in the ribbon, I found it at craftoutlet.com, item # RN5272X6. If we don't engage our families and friends, we can become the next WCTU.

Alan

Cousins, I have collected several postcards that depict places associated with William and Suanne White will share here and in future newsletters. *Alan*

1. The Wisbech Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul is the home church of William White, where he was baptized on 25 January 1586. He is the son of Edward White and Thomasine (Cross) May White. After the death of his parents, he lived with his maternal grandmother Jacomine. On her death he went to Amsterdam where his half siblings, Henry and Jacomine May had fled. Jacomine May married Jean de l'Ecuse in Amsterdam which event William witnessed. Henry's daughter Dorothy became the first wife of William Bradford. She died tragically in Providencetown harbor by falling overboard. A 19th century story besmirched her name by claiming it was suicide. Unfortunately this canard still circulates. William White and Susanna became the only members of Henry Ainsworth's church to sail on the Mayflower when the other members of Amsterdam church planning to immigrate backed out.



Pilgrim Descendants Meet In NYC

William White Society Member **Carol Young** attended the Mayflower Cousins Dinner in New York on March 7, 2018. Carol is pictured below on the left with Manhattan Director Sarah Morse and Ann Ellison.



This year the Manhattan Chapter of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants had its annual dinner at the beautiful Colony Club on Park Avenue. We were honored to have the GSMD Governor, George P. Garmany, Jr. MD, as our speaker. Carol reports she was the only descendant of William and Susanna White in attendance, and she managed to be seated at the head table. She took the opportunity to speak with George Garmany about the role of women in the Plymouth Colony and how the GSMD will present them in 2020. As an example, she told George our group should be known as the Pilgrims William and Susanna White Society. The Governor's response was "I'm all for it!"

Pilgrim Descendants Across The Pond

Europe/UK Mayflower Descendants Chapter founder Nancy Naro is pictured below with Governor General George Garmany at the Mayflower Pub in London. She presented him a copy of the Europe Charter.



Our Cousin **Suzanne Ress**, who lives in Milan, Italy had the opportunity to converse with Nancy and asked her few questions for our newsletter:

Suzanne: How and when did you decide to create the European chapter?

Nancy: My daughter is a member of the New York Chapter of GSMD and I became a member in 2012. I live in London and apart from Canada there was no member society outside of the United States. In 2015, a member-at-large of the GSMD Executive Committee, invited GSMD members living in the UK to establish a local chapter. Arrangements were made to

meet the Governor General, Lea Sinclair Filson and other officers during their visit to London in September of that year. As a result of that meeting, a core of interested American ex-pats who were living and working in the UK and Europe undertook the creation of a UK and Europe branch of GSMD. I gave further details in my article in *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*, (See vol. 82, No.3, pp. 10-11).

Suzanne: Who are members? Where do they live? How did you find them?

Nancy: With the assistance of GSMD, I contacted American members in the UK and Europe to propose the establishment of a UK/Europe society. Respondents were offered a choice between dual membership and single UK/Europe membership. A few volunteered to serve as officers and each one listed his or her Mayflower ancestor. After many months of consultation with very helpful input from the officers of GSMD, the Charter was ready with the required twenty signatures of American residents in the Republic of Ireland, Italy, France, Portugal, Sweden and the UK. In support of the Charter, GSMD Executive Officers and some GSMD members resident in the US added their names, bringing the number of signatories to thirty-four.

Bylaws were drafted, dues were agreed, volunteer offices were filled, and in December 2016 GSMD gave its official approval for the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Europe, subsequently amended to include the UK.

I must at this point stress that the principal aim was to bring members in. However, in the ensuing year since its inception, the Society's members have taken the Society in new directions. Every

officer can count her or himself among those who have carried the Society forward. As our representative, you brought our Society to September's Congress. Another officer sponsored a certificate to each signatory of our Charter. The Society treasurer and family members designed our Society logo and proudly modelled a cap and a tee-shirt for our Members' Facebook site. Two of the signatories joined members of the GSMD Executive Committee to contribute several volumes of Silver books to our collection.

Suzanne: How are meetings done?

Nancy: The first official meeting of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Europe was held at my home in London on September 17, 2016. Owing to the fact that many of our officers live outside of the UK, the meeting was held via Skype. Governor General Lea Sinclair Filson attended this meeting in person and welcomed officers and members of the Society. She listed the publications and other benefits of GSMD membership that every Society member would receive. Under GSMD regulations, the Society was informed that it would be disbanded if annual membership fell below twenty UK/Europe residents in any given year. Additional details were provided concerning the obligations that the new Society would need to make: payments to GSMD for approval of new applications, supplementals, and additional family memberships. The commissioning of a Society flag was suggested and the Society was also reminded that a complete and annually updated collection of Silver Books would be needed for our Membership officer to process new applications.

As you might imagine, the first meeting in London made it paramount that as a non-profit organization the Society would need to operate a budget made up exclusively of members' dues. It was therefore proposed that all meetings should be held on Skype, which was not an ideal forum for group meetings, but would incur no costs. In pursuit of other cost-cutting arrangements, it was decided that communications with members would be via email and via a Members' Facebook page. More recently, our Communications officer created a Mayflower Society in Europe Facebook forum for the general public. The Society also regularly benefits from publication of our news in the American in Britain monthly newsletter.

Suzanne: Why is our chapter significant and important, as we move toward 2020?

Nancy: The answers to your previous questions focussed on the mechanics of establishing a member GSMD society in the UK and Europe. As to the importance of our Chapter, I would emphasize that it highlights the transatlantic nature of the Mayflower experience. In the UK and Europe, American descendants of Mayflower passengers now have a forum to explore the legacies of their ancestors in the UK, Leiden, and other parts of Europe. Ancestry continues to fascinate and we endorse continuing efforts to explore and reveal as yet undocumented aspects of the lives of Mayflower passengers and crew.

We are mindful of the importance of togetherness as a legacy of the Mayflower experience. We are engaging with other colonial American organizations, the Mayflower 400, the Harwich Mayflower Project, and the Councils in Southampton and Plymouth to promote Mayflower-

related undertakings in Holland and the USA. But we also hope that the enterprising spirit of the Mayflower passengers will motivate American expats to establish GSMD branches of the Mayflower family in other parts of the world.

As we move forward to 2020, we look forward to sharing the Mayflower history with GSMD visitors. The Mayflower Pub in London has been a popular venue for gatherings although Southampton and Plymouth have figured in most visitors' itineraries. We plan a yearly meeting in London or elsewhere for visitors, members and potential members of the Society and welcome visitors to our public Facebook forum for details of our events.

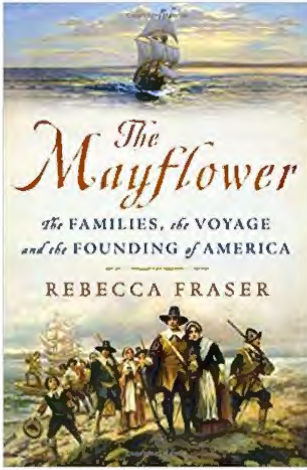
GIFT IDEA

Have you ever run out of ways to celebrate a birthday for the family member who has everything and doesn't want any more? Make them a Friend of the Pilgrim William White Society. Perhaps you want to honor someone who made a difference in your family research. Make them a Friend. I wanted to thank Sue Allan for her great contributions to our knowledge about William and Susanna. So, I made her Friend and will continue to support her Friend-ship. Consider supporting someone in your family and perhaps he or she will finally finish that GSMD application. *Alan*

Book Review

By Ann Wilkerson

I grew up in Virginia and Texas and lacked any knowledge of the Mayflower pilgrims beyond what is told at



Thanksgiving tables everywhere. The discovery that my ancestors include William and Susanna White has opened up a newfound interest in “my” history; when my PWWS cousin Carol Young recommended this book, I knew I had to read it (*The Mayflower--The*

Families, the Voyage, and the Founding of America by Rebecca Fraser, 2017, St. Martin’s Press, 358 pages including notes, bibliography, and index).

Fraser’s protagonist is Edward Winslow, our grandmother’s second husband. I learned much about Edward’s background, character, and personality, and that he was a man of influence and authority throughout his life.

The book can be roughly divided in thirds: the first part encompasses the founding of Plymouth and then Massachusetts; the middle part consists of the history of relationships with the Mother Country and the Indians; the third and final part reflects on Edward’s legacy after his death and burial at sea in 1655.

Fraser, whose mother is English historian Lady Antonia Fraser, does an excellent job of placing events in context. Her

knowledge and research of English history provides detail, foreshadowing, and consequences for the events from 1595 to 1704. For example, she highlights not just the separatist ideas of our Pilgrim fathers, but places their beliefs and actions against a backdrop of England changing from Catholicism to Protestantism and back and forth again.

If I have one (small) complaint about the book, it is in its title “and the Founding of America.” Although my native Virginia is mentioned (the index shows 5 separate references), certainly the story of the founding of our country must include the contributions of those who founded Jamestowne 13 years prior to Plymouth. Maybe that should be Fraser’s next book.

Finally, I will close this review as Fraser closes her narrative, with the death of our grandfather/great uncle Peregrine White. She says:

“His iconic birth on the Mayflower meant that his death marked the end of a heroic generation.” For Edward Winslow’s stepson Peregrine, home was “here in Marshfield amidst gentle green hills.”

*To our Friends who celebrate
Easter,*

Happy Easter!

*Remember our pilgrim forebears
did not like Easter and did not
celebrate it.*

Old Winslow Burying Ground

By Mike Beard

I admit playing hooky during the Congress last September. One of the side trips I fit in was to the Old Winslow Burying Ground in Marshfield, Massachusetts. It's on (surprise) Winslow Cemetery Road. Marshfield is 21 miles north of Plymouth. I was looking for Resolved's grave and did a search in *Find a Grave*. That led me to the Old Winslow



Burying Ground.

Edward Winslow founded Marshfield in 1630. One of Marshfield's early settlers donated the land for the Cemetery. It is adjacent to the site of the meeting house our pilgrim ancestors gathered at.

I am standing next to a monument to *The Settlers of Green Harbor Marshfield*. It names Resolved and Peregrine White, along with their spouses Judith (Vassal) and Sarah (Bassett). Also named on the monument is their mother Susanna (Jackson), and her second husband, Edward Winslow. All, except Edward, are assumed buried near the monument.

There are several field stones marking the early graves – which were in the yard of the meeting house. Edward Winslow is not there because he died during an



English military expedition in the Caribbean in 1655 and was buried at sea.

At one time, Daniel Webster owned the



property and he is also buried there.

Daniel Webster's headstone – Pilgrim monument in background

General Board of Assistants Meeting

St. Charles, Illinois
September 5-9, 2018

The Illinois Society is hosting the meeting of the General Board of Assistants at the Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, Illinois. Members of the General Society are welcome to attend the Illinois Society encourages attendees and their guests to join them for business meetings, training, tours and socializing. The Society has planned some tours and events unique to Illinois for Wednesday through Sunday including Frank Lloyd Wright’s home. Avid genealogists can tour the famous Newberry Library.

Full information can be found at www.theMayflowerSociety.org/GBOAre gistration2018

SOCIETY OFFICERS

- Governor D. Alan Smith
- Deputy Governor Pat Nichols
- Recording Secretary Patrick White
- Corresponding Secretary Susie Wuest
- Treasurer Prarie Counce
- Elder Kenneth Whittemore, Jr.
- Captain Bill Kelleher
- Historian Barb Williams
- Newsletter Editor Michael Beard



WELCOME TO NEW SOCIETY MEMBERS

- Sue Allan**
- Catherine Bechert (Resolved)**
- Lila Bond (Resolved)**
- Pat Dennett (Peregrine)**
- Susan Wainio (Resolved)**
- Kay Webber**

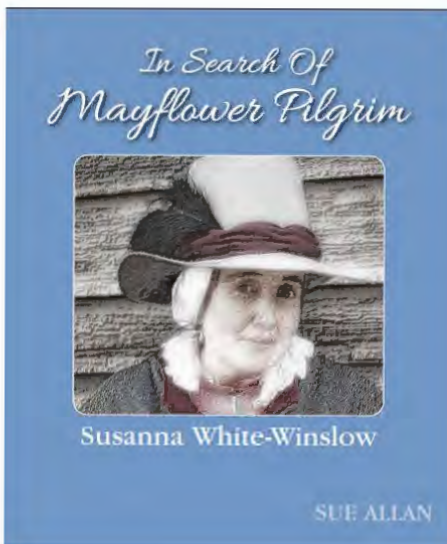


Letters to the Editor

Hi Michael,

Your letter here – in the July newsletter!

At last the book cover, which will be available on 9 April from www.domtom.co.uk.



Kindest regards

Sue Allan.

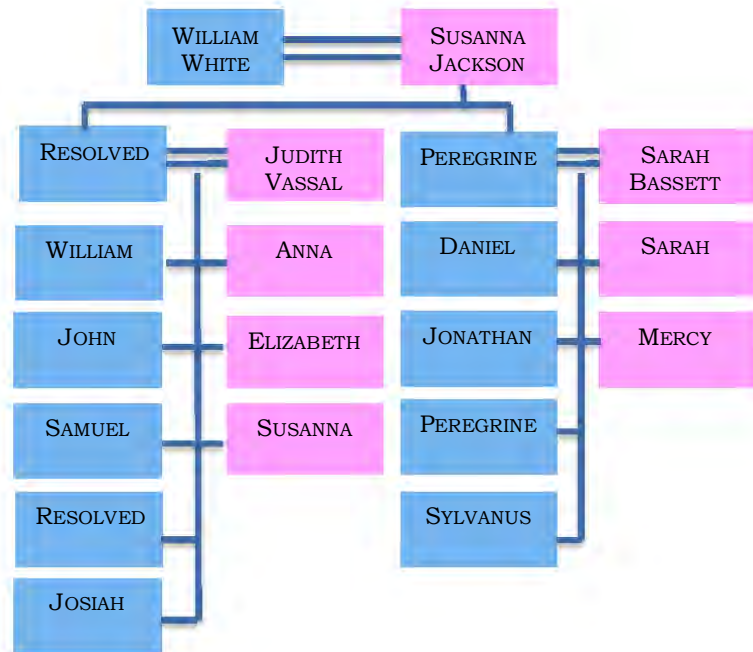
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~Pilgrim Fathers UK Origins Association,
Historian Austerfield Field Project, Owner ~
Mayflower Pilgrim Tours.
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DON'T STOP THE PRESSES!

The *Society News* needs stuff to print. Please feel free to send anything you think worthy to share with your cousins. Photos too! Just send to Michael Beard at dotmike13@verizon.net. If you prefer – mail hard copies to me at 17 Rubins Walk, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22405

THE PILGRIM WILLIAM WHITE SOCIETY

Our Mission: Provide a forum for members to gain information about our common ancestor, William White; to keep our Pilgrim heritage alive; and to promote education in our schools, communities and other societies.



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