



# Society News

## THE PILGRIM WILLIAM WHITE SOCIETY

AN ENDORSED FAMILY SOCIETY  
OF THE GENERAL SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

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### Message from the Governor

Dear Cousins,

Three years have flown by since I became governor of our Society. I am so amazed at what we have accomplished since 2013 under Prarie's leadership and humbled at our accomplishments since 2017.

2020 through 2023 with our new governor and the Board can only be greater yet. We are the Little Engine That Could. We have been able to place a bronze plaque honoring Susanna Jackson White Winslow and her father Richard and their legacy at Scrooby Manor. We helped sponsor an album of sacred and secular music brought by William Bradford, the nephew by marriage of William White, to Plymouth. Dorothy May Bradford, his niece, would have known and perhaps even sang some of it. Our credited sponsorship will be on the CD and our Society will be even more known. Our impact will continue into the distant future because of your dedication and your renewal of your membership. Our support of Pilgrim Hall,



*Governor Alan Smith*

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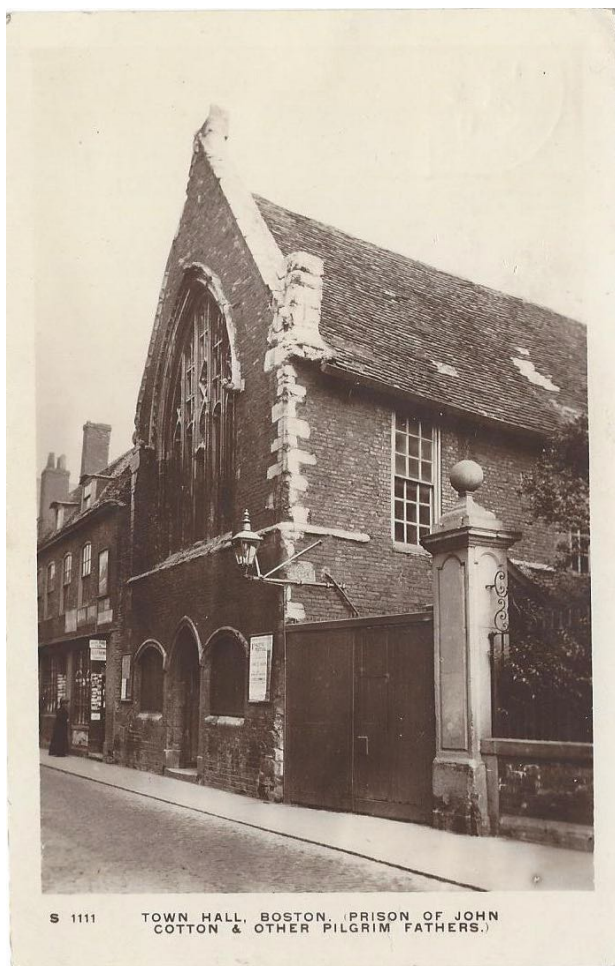
Cadman-White-Handy House helps to support the memory of ancestors' commitment to a new world with its freedom to worship God.

I encourage you if you haven't already renewed to do so now. And I encourage you to sponsor a member of your family as a member. My grandchildren, my wife and my older son are proud members. 2020 is the year to commemorate our ancestors and their descendants.

Happy 2020 and All Things Pilgrim,

*Alan*

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



8. The town hall of Boston (the Guildhall of St. Mary) is the site of the prison of the fleeing Separatist men in 1607. Their first attempt failed because of their betrayal by their hired ship captain, who was to transport them to Holland. Bradford does not give the names of the men held there; so, it is not known definitely that Richard Jackson was one of the men. Since he and Brewster were specifically names in a warrant for "Brownism" in 1607, it would seem likely that he would have been one of those fleeing to Holland.

## Visiting Mystic

By Evelyn Layton



**I** travelled to Mystic, Connecticut for Thanksgiving. Here is a picture of me with two grandchildren. Left is **Anna Bates** 16 who lives in Mystic. Middle is me (not giving my age)! I live on Kent Island Maryland. Right is **Riley Cochran** (18 and a new Mayflower member) who lives in Leesburg Virginia. The *Mayflower* is in background. The Mystic Shipyard has spent several years on a restoration project (ship is 60 years old) so she can sail back to Plymouth in May.

## Mayflower in the Rose Parade

By Charles T. Mangum

**W**e saw the Mayflower Float in the Tournament of Roses Parade. Very well done & attractive. As descendants, we can all be proud of the float's appearance on the National Stage reminding our Citizens of the importance of our Nation's beginnings as the Pilgrims of the Mayflower landed at Plymouth 400 years ago. Their willful actions to sail across the Atlantic for religious freedom followed by their strong endurance against tremendous mental, physical, & health hardships are major examples of the "true grit & determination" of our American people today.

We owe very much gratitude to these Pilgrims who began & successfully founded this great Nation. And, we owe our very existence & religious/moral principles to their belief in God and the importance to live free with inalienable rights given to us by God.

Thank you, as well, to the California Mayflower Society for keeping the *Mayflower* Pilgrims' dream alive as a true reality



## Lena Thanks the Crandall Police

Society young member, **Lena Danford**, 12 years old, chose as her ***I am thankful for you*** project this past Thanksgiving the Crandall, Texas police force.

Lena says the Crandall Police Department directs traffic at her school for classes and football games, keep her community safe, and show up 24/7 prepared to face whatever they are called on to do.

To show her appreciation to the force of 17, Lena, with help from her mother and grandmother, prepared gift bags containing pens, small note pad, Kleenex packs, hand warmers (they stand out in the cold to direct



traffic, she says), candy bars, nut packs, and a \$5 gift card to the mom and pop coffee shop next door to the police department. She also had homemade pumpkin bread for them made by her grandmother. The police force told Lena they were delighted that a young person would recognize them in such a nice way.



Lena Danford with the Crandall Police

## Help needed at Congress Check In

**B**ecause of the large attendance for the *Mayflower 400th* commemoration and 2020 Congress in Plymouth in September, the 2020 Events and Meetings Committee is looking for some volunteer help with registration check-in. Check-in begins on Tuesday morning, September 15, 2020, at 8:00 am in the front lobby of Hotel 1620 and closes that day at 5:00 pm. It reopens at 8:00 am on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 and runs until noon. On Thursday morning, September 17, 2020 (the first day of 2020 Congress), registration check-in will be open only a couple of hours, from 7:45 am to 10:00 am. Any amount of time you can spare on any of those days will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Prarie Counce at [prariec@me.com](mailto:prariec@me.com) to get your name on the schedule. Thank you very much!

## PILGRIMS, PROFIT AND PROPAGANDA: A London Mayflower 400 walk

By Caroline Mongan

**I**f you're coming to London, we can offer you something extra special. A *Mayflower* walk, led by qualified London Guides and recognised by *Mayflower 400*, the international network coordinating the celebrations. We have some scheduled walks starting in mid-March, but can also offer dates and times to suit you.

**WHY LONDON?** It was the crucible of the American adventure. Without it, there would have been no *Mayflower*. Wealthy London merchants and politicians bankrolled the early American settlements, pumped out propaganda to promote them, and effectively ran them. Some of the key figures in the *Mayflower's* history lived and worked here. The ship itself was berthed in London, sailed from London, its Captain is buried here.

**WHAT YOU'LL SEE:** You'll visit medieval sites where the early American colonies were plotted and funded. A church where some of the Pilgrims worshipped. A glorious 17th century hall where Pilgrim leader **Edward Winslow** was apprenticed - and which acted as 'propaganda central' for the American settlements. See the locations



of grim prisons where Winslow and other Puritans were incarcerated - and which transported orphans and prisoners to the New World. Follow in the footsteps of the Native American princess, Pocahontas, swashbuckling Captain John Smith, and the Pilgrims' local guide, Squanto. See the

burial place of the Mayflower Captain, Christopher Jones. Finally, visit the ancient *Mayflower* pub close to where the ship set sail - and sample a pint of the pub's special Scurvy Ale!

Immerse yourself in the London of the *Mayflower*. A city of contrasts, where drunkards rub shoulders with Puritans, religion with superstition, and imprisonment was often tantamount to a death sentence. A hotbed of religious dissent - which would change the world forever.



**Logistics and Price:** We meet in the heart of The City by Bank tube station. The walk costs £25 per person, and will take approximately 3 hours, including travelling by public transport to the Mayflower Pub for our pint of Scurvy Ale.

Contact

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## THE VASSALL FAMILY AND RESOLVED WHITE

*By Alton Rogers*

**T**he **Vassalls** link Resolved White descendants to the founding of Jamestowne and the Massachusetts Bay Company and the sailing of the Winthrop Fleet in 1630. **John Vassall** is our qualifying ancestor to join the Jamestowne Society and **William Vassall** our qualifying ancestor for the Winthrop Society.

The Vassalls were an ancient Catholic family of Normandy, which included two cardinals and a marshal of France; but John Vassall became a Huguenot (Calvinist Protestant) and fled to England a few years before the massacre of Huguenots by Catholics on St. Bartholomew's Day in 1572.

In France, the Vassall family's origins were south of the Dordogne River, especially at Fraysinnet-le-Gourdonnais, Vaillac, and Creysse. It is in the Bordeaux area of south-west France.

In England the Vassalls were against the authority of King Charles in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century and in America were loyal to the British Crown during the American Revolution. In consequence of being Loyalists, Vassall families were exiled to England and their estates confiscated. After their return to England in 1776, members of the family distinguished themselves in the British army and navy.

### Vassall/White Genealogy

1. **Jean (John) de Vassall** b. ca.1500s in Caen, Normandy. A protestant Huguenot of Normandy. descended from the French house of de Vassall which traces back to about the eleventh century Barons de Guerdon, en Quercy, Perigord in south-west

France.

- 2. John (Jean) Vassall**, b. about 1548 in Normandy, France. d. September 1625 (of the plague) in Stepney, Middlesex (London), England. Buried at St. Dunstan' s Parish Church, Stepney, London. He is our qualifying ancestor for the **Huguenot Society of America**. m. (1) Anne Howes (Hewes), no known children from this marriage. m (2) 1580 **Anne Russell**

- I. Judith, b. 1582 – d. 1625.
- II. John I, b. 1584 – d. 1585.
- III. Samuel b. 1586 - 1667 at sea.
- IV. John II, b. 1590 – d. 1591.
- V. **William** baptized 27 August 1592, Stepney, Middlesex (London), England. Died between 31 July 1655 and 12 June 1657 in Barbados, West Indies.

John Vassall was an alderman of London and vestryman in Stepney Parish (Ratcliffe hamlet), County Middlesex (London) 1582-1601, where his three marriages took place. he was recognized as an authority of navigation. In 1588 John Vassall fitted out and commanded two ships, the *Samuel* and *Little Toby* with which he joined the Royal Navy to help repel the Spanish Armada. As a result of his service, Queen Elizabeth I granted him the right to bear arms. The arms granted to him by Queen Elizabeth I in consequence of his Armada service were adopted by his English family thereafter in place of those used by his French Norman forebears. His name is on the 1889 National Armada Memorial in Portsmouth. The arms of the "Vassal"

family are depicted on the West Face of this monument.

In 1610 John Vassall was recorded as a subscriber for two shares of stock in the Virginia Company with an investment of 25 (pounds) and 10 (shillings).

- 3. William Vassall**, b. 1592, a wealthy and educated man who publicly supported freedom of religion. He became a man of considerable fortune and of great wealth in Massachusetts, becoming one of the richest settlers in Plymouth Colony, as well as later on the island of Barbados in the West Indies. Married **Anne (Ann) Kinge** 1613 in Cold Norton, Essex, England.
- I. Anna, b. 1614 at Cold Norton, Essex - buried 22 Sept. 1614.
  - II. **Judith**, born c.1619. Married 1640 at Scituate, Massachusetts to **Resolved White**.
  - III. Frances, b.1623. m. 1637 at Scituate, Massachusetts, James Adams.
  - IV. Samuel (twin), b.1624 d. 1624.
  - V. Mary (twin), b. 1624 d.1634.
  - VI. John, born c.1625. Married Anna Lewis, daughter of John Lewis, an English resident of Genoa, a Maritime Republic in Italy at that time. Captain John Vassall had expeditionary exploits in North Carolina and elsewhere becoming wealthy acquiring large tracts of land in Jamaica after the British capture of Jamaica from the Spanish. He was the executor of his father's estate in Barbados, West Indies c.1657.
  - VII. William, b. 1627.
  - VIII. Anna (II), b.1628. Married Nicholas Ware. Anna and her husband are noted in William Vassall's will as being present on Barbados when it was written in



- 1655.
- IX. Margaret, born c.1633. Married Joshua Hubbard (Hobart) at St. Michael's Parish, Barbados, West Indies. She may have been a resident of Barbados as she was noted as present when her father wrote his will in 1655.
  - X. Mary, born 1634. She died unmarried in 1657, prob. in Barbados, West Indies, as she was noted in her father's will as being present in Barbados when it *was* written in 1655.

The history of the Vassall family in America starts with **William Vassall** and his wife **Anne King**. He first came to New England on the ship *Arbella* in 1630, returned to England in 1631/32 and came back to Massachusetts with his family in 1635.

William and his brother Samuel were among the original patentees in 1628 of the Massachusetts Bay Company. Although Samuel never came to New England, his investments in the new country were great. Samuel was an alderman of London, a member of parliament and a royal commissioner in the matter of the establishment of peace with Scotland.

William was named as a patentee in the March 1629 First Charter of the Massachusetts Bay Company wherein he is listed as an Associate and Assistant to the Governor. The Charter founded the Massachusetts Bay Colony, bringing over 20,000 English immigrants to the New World in the 1630s.

William Vassall was a signatory to both the Massachusetts Bay Charter and the Cambridge Agreement of 1629. The Cambridge Agreement was to move the entire government of Massachusetts from England (where it was then meeting) to New England. William Vassall and his

wife first settled in Roxbury and then moved to Scituate in 1635, they are recorded as owning 200 acres of upland and some acreage of meadow land and was licensed to operate a terry on the North River.

In 1640 his daughter **Judith**, married *Mayflower* passenger **Resolved White**. He was a step-son, with his brother Peregrine, of Pilgrim Edward Winslow, who married their mother Susannah after their father William's early death.

William Vassall was an advocate of religious freedom who proposed that all members of the Church of England be admitted to communion in the New England church. He was quite outspoken against those who might have opinions in politics and religion differed from his own, and often agitated against the autocratic methods of colonial government. He was a man of great convictions in the rights and freedoms of his fellow Englishmen and worked very hard for religious tolerance. In 1645 the church of Plymouth sent him a message about his outspokenness hoping he would desist from such activities and noted he would be censured if he did not.

Edward Winslow stated in his *History of New England*, that Vassall was "a busy and factious spirit, and always opposite to the civil governments of this country and the way of our churches." He describes Vassall's several petitions to the Bay Colony and Plymouth courts, and to Parliament, as asking that "the distinctions which were maintained here, both in civil and church estate, might be taken away, and that we might be wholly governed by the laws of England."

Editor's Note: Want more? Alton Rogers' unedited submission runs 24 pages and has a lot more detail. Happy to send you the original. --Mike



## 400th Anniversary Commemoration Schedule 1620 – 2020

September 19-2020

<https://www.themayflowersociety.org/society-business/2020-schedule>

### *Letters to the Editor*

*Hello Cousin Mike.*

Well darn, nobody wrote.

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

**WELCOME TO NEW SOCIETY  
MEMBER**



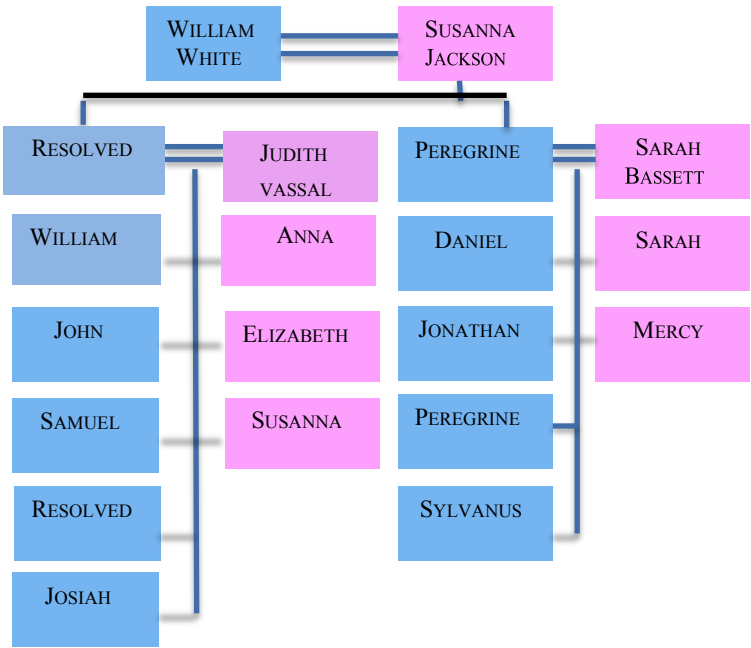
***Jane D Schreiner -- Resolved***



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# 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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