



# Society News

## THE PILGRIM WILLIAM WHITE SOCIETY

AN ENDORSED FAMILY SOCIETY  
OF THE GENERAL SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

ESTABLISHED 2013

VOLUME IX

APRIL 2021

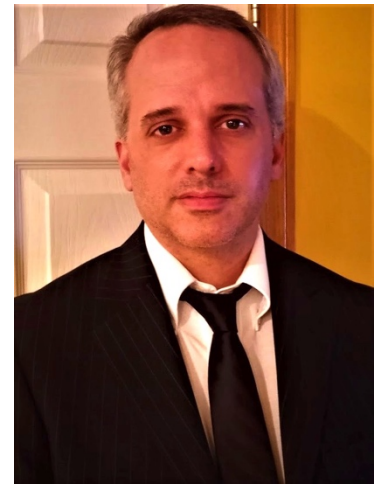
NUMBER 2

## Message from the Governor

*Dear Cousins,*

Despite having depleted numbers in the Spring of 1621, the Pilgrims remained contractually obligated to the merchant-sponsors and had to forge ahead in their temporary communal arrangement. Managing scarcity and rationing was a significant challenge in the inaugural year of the colony. The Mayflower that was anchored for the entirety of the Winter season finally headed back to England on April 5th. All the first settlers of Plymouth chose to stay. Susanna remarries the following month becoming the first bride in the settlement.

Thank you very much for your continued support through annual dues. The Society had a great response with membership renewals. An important aspect of our mission statement is *to perpetuate to a remote posterity the memory of our Pilgrim ancestor, William White and his family*. The Pilgrim story is inspirational and very consequential. Conveying this narrative to younger generations can instill a lasting appreciation. If there is to be a quincentennial commemoration held 100 years from now than the historical account should continually be held up with reverence. The disruptions of the past year that led to much of the 400-year anniversary events either being postponed, cancelled, scaled back, or limited to a virtual experience has been somewhat discouraging. In the spirit of our Pilgrim forefather's fortitude, we are to



Governor Patrick White

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look ahead instead of lamenting on what could have been.

Special thanks to the TPWWS volunteer governing board for their support in the management of the Society's activities. Even though the Society has a small and modest budget, the elected Officers are diligent in making decisions on how funds are utilized. There is flexibility in the budget to support research opportunities when they arise. William White descendants have been fortunate in learning the English origin discoveries in 2017 and more recently with the release of the Peregrine biography. We play a big part in creating the demand for historians to dig deeper. More findings regarding our ancestral family will be forthcoming.

*Patrick*

## William White Society Database

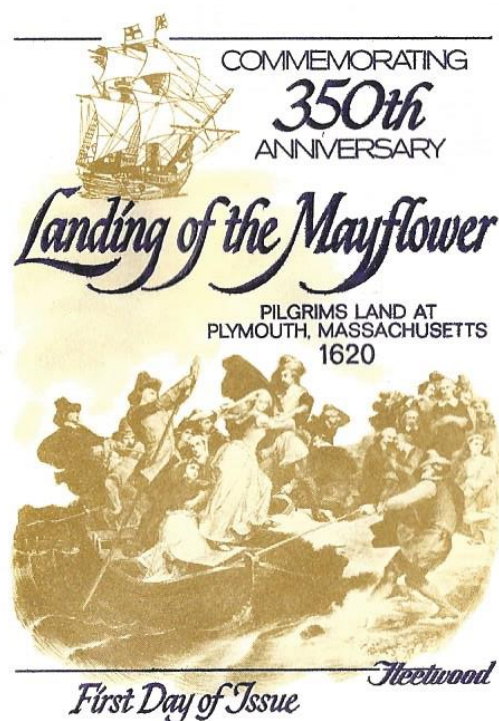
*By Cousin David Lawrence Grinnell*

I am creating a database of members' lineages and would love to include your line. If you are willing to send me a copy of your approved Mayflower Society application, I will include it in the database ([dvytca@gmail.com](mailto:dvytca@gmail.com)).

Eventually, I will publish a Descendant Chart in the Societies' Newsletter. This chart uses a descendant-ordered format starting with our common ancestor, Pilgrim William White, and moving forward in time to William's descendants. I'd love to **include you** as one of Williams's descendants in the Descendant Chart.

My desire is that this will help current members find cousins who share some of the same line and also will help friends and acquaintances find their own line to William White.

Please join us in this exciting adventure.



# White Descendant Fights for the Vote.

*By Judith Whiting (nee)Phelps Letchworth*

This is an article I wrote for *Women's History Month* about my grandmother. She would be a William White Society member—but she died way too young--the family has carried on her history.

My Grandmother, Grace Edith Roberts Whiting, was involved with the Massachusetts League of Women Voters from 1935-1936. Nana was very involved in civic matters throughout her life.

Miss Grace Edith Roberts was born in Old Town, Maine on 9 August 1885. Miss

Roberts married Ralph Lee Whiting on 19 June 1906. She was very active in the community being the daughter-in-law of Judge Fred Jewett Whiting, Esq.

In 1918, Mrs. Whiting moved to Lowell, Massachusetts with four children

in tow; Esther, Philip, Fred and Janice, my mother, who was 7 years old at the time. Their father had joined the military so the family moved to Lowell to be near her sister, Josephine R. Gafney.

Mrs. Whiting was employed in Boston as the legal secretary of Lionel Norman, Esq. for many years. Mr. Norman was involved in politics and encouraged her to be involved also.

The newly formed League of Women Voters of Greater Lowell was formed in 1932 and has continued to grow. Their purpose is below:

The League of Women Voters of Greater Lowell is a nonpartisan grassroots organization. We encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.





## White Descendant Does Well with *Mayflower* Scholarship.

**By Cousin Everett White**

Thanks for the reminder about the newsletter and Saint Patrick's Day. You didn't mention that it was also my youngest Daughter's birthday. And no, her name is not Patricia, It's **Debra White**. After all, she is the great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, granddaughter of



our namesake William. She's pictured here with her son and my grandson, **Wyatt Kilburn**.

Wyatt was the recipient of

several scholarships and grants (including a Mayflower scholarship) and since this photo was taken, he has graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a pre-med degree and he is currently awaiting acceptance into Medical School. That's the news from here in Cumberland, Maine where it may be cold and snowy but it's still a beautiful place to live. Stay safe, stay well and get vaccinated.

## The Last Pilgrim

**By Noelle A. Granger, Ph.D**

Dear Mr. Beard,

I note that you are the Editor of the newsletter for the Pilgrim William White Society and I am hoping members of your organization might be interested in a book I recently published. *The Last Pilgrim* is the story of Mary Allerton Cushman, who was four years old when she and her parents sailed on the *Mayflower*. This remarkable woman lived to the end of the 17th century, and as the daughter of Isaac Allerton, a

colony leader, and then the wife of Thomas Cushman, she had a front-row seat to the history of the Plymouth Colony from its beginnings as the first permanent settlement in New England to when it became part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1691.

Mary must have known him and his wife extremely well. She saw and experienced it all – the terrible and terrifying voyage across the Atlantic, the winter of



dying, the starvation and deprivation of the following year until the first crops came in, the interactions with the Native Americans, the wars, an earthquake, epidemics, a monstrous hurricane, and the growth and spread of the colony. *The Last*

*Pilgrim* was written as an homage not only to Mary but to all the women of the colony, without whom Plimoth Plantation would not have survived.

My background for this book: I grew up in Plymouth and my parents volunteered me to portray various girls and young women in the Pilgrims' Progress each week during the summer. They also enrolled me in a summer class at the Harlow House, directed by the inimitable Rose Briggs, where I learned to make candles; wash, card, spin and weave wool; cook in the fireplace – many things that were daily tasks for Pilgrim women. In high school, I was chosen to be one of the first guides, now called re-enactors, at the newly built Plimoth Plantation, a recreation of the original village. While working there, I often wondered about the Pilgrim women and how their story had been largely overlooked.

Mary's life is set against the real background of that time. *The Last Pilgrim* begins from her father's point of view – she was, after all, only four when she descended into the small living space below deck on the *Mayflower* – but gradually assumes Mary's voice, as the colony achieves a foothold in New England soil.



Hers is a story of survival – the daily, back-breaking work to ensure food on the table, the unsettled interactions with local native tribes, the dangers of wild animals, and the endless challenges of injury, disease, and death.

What was a woman's life like in the Plymouth Colony? *The Last Pilgrim* will tell you.

I think the members of your Society might enjoy this book. *The Last Pilgrim* was recently long-listed for the Devon and Cornwall International Book Prize.

Best wishes,

Noelle A. Granger, Ph.D.  
Professor Emerita  
The University of North Carolina

## Dateline Plymouth 1648: A Murder for the Ages.

By Cousin Ann Wilkerson

From time-to-time I google the names of my Mayflower ancestors. The results often include interesting family connections as well as items from the actual historical records. One such search led me to documents showing that my 11th great grandfather Francis Cooke and his son John, my 10th great grandfather, had been coroner's jurors on a murder case in 1648

in Plymouth. This was not just any murder, but the unimaginable killing of a four-year-old girl by her mother. Our ancestor Susanna Jackson White Winslow (my 10th great grandmother) is briefly featured in the story. The facts unroll as though it is a 17th century edition of "Dateline."

Twelve men were sworn by Governor Bradford on July 22, 1648 to make inquiry into the death of the child of Alice Bishop, the wife of Richard Bishop. These twelve declared that coming into the house of Richard Bishop, they saw much blood, and going into the chamber, they found a "woman child about four yeares of age," lying in her shift. Her throat was cut "with divers gashes cross wayes, the windpipe cut and stuke into the throat downward." A bloody knife was by the side of the child, and Alice Bishop confessed that she had murdered her daughter with said knife.

A witness named Rachell Ramsden was questioned. Rachell had come to the Bishop home on an errand. Alice was then "as well as shee hath known her att any time," and her child was "lying abed asleep." Rachell left to fetch "some buttermilk at Goodwife<sup>1</sup> Winslowe's," and when Rachell returned, Allis was "sad and dumpish." Seeing blood and perceiving that Alice had killed her child, Rachell fled.

Ten days later at a Court of Assistants, Alice confessed "shee did comite the aforesaid murther and is sorry for it." At the General Court on October 4, 1648, Alice Bishop was indicted for "felonius murder by her



\* <sup>1</sup> A goodwife is a female head of the household. After 1646, Susanna's second husband Edward Winslow resided in England, representing the colony in the government of Oliver Cromwell.

Edward died at sea in 1655. Susanna would continue living on her own as a "goodwife" for many more years.



committed upon Martha Clark, her own child, the frute of her own body." After the indictment, a petty jury found Alice guilty and pronounced a sentence of death. She was ordered taken to the place of execution and there "hanged by the neck untell her body is dead."

What does one make of this appalling 17th century crime? Was Alice mentally ill, suffering from depression, herself the victim of abuse? Were the expectations of a Plymouth wife and mother too arduous for her fragile mental state? Did our ancestor Susanna Jackson White Winslow regret the timing of Rachell's buttermilk mission to her home, thinking a murder could have been averted? Did my ancestors Francis and John Cooke return to their homes from that horrendously bloody murder scene and seek comfort with their loved ones? The record does not show.

Sources:

Plymouth Court Records, Volume 2, pages 132-134

[www.alicemartinbishop.com](http://www.alicemartinbishop.com)

## Precious Coins

I don't know whether or not you want to use this, but attached is a picture of the Mayflower 400th Anniversary coin set from the U.S. Mint and the Royal Mint. These coins, designated as "First Day Issue", have been graded as "Proof 70 Ultra Cameo", or perfect, and are in special holders because of that grading. If you use the picture please DO NOT include my name with it - I would like to remain anonymous for security reasons (there are only four of these sets graded "perfect" in the world). You could just write that a society member wished to share this with the other society members. I thought others might like to see the coins (actually, the U.S. "coin" is a medal, not a coin) if they haven't had the opportunity to do so.

I bought these through The Coin Vault ([thecoinvault.com](http://thecoinvault.com)). I just happen to come across these coins when I turned on The Coin Vault's TV show on March 2nd. They had all four of the sets I mentioned for sale. All four sold in a few minutes.

The sets and the U.S. individual



"medal" have been sold out at the Mint since last Fall.

I also bought the 300th anniversary medal from The Coin Vault a little more than a year ago.

Here's another Mayflower Commemorative that you might want to use in the newsletter.



It comes from the Solomon Islands. It is 11" in diameter. The outside consists of 18 copper coins (50 value) that exactly replicates the American History Frieze painted around the U.S. Capitol dome. Then there is a heavy cardboard picture of the remainder of the dome and in the center is the 400th Mayflower Commemorative medal.

The coinvault.com has the U.S. 400th Mayflower medal in stock (not the British coin). It is graded First Day of Issue Reverse Proof PF70 (that's the top grade). They are selling it for \$799.98. You can find it by going to their site and entering Mayflower in their search box.

There is also a Solomon Islands item that they made up for the 400th anniversary that sells for \$299.98. Never saw that item before.

## Book Review

By Cousin Ann Wilkerson

*The Life of Peregrine White: The First Englishman Born in New England*

By Stephen C. O'Neill, copyright November 30, 2020, Marshfield Historical Society, \$20.00

☆☆☆☆☆

While doing genealogy research, I often wish there was just one complete resource for information about an ancestor. Gathering documents such as birth, marriage, death, deeds, and wills is exhausting and leaves me to wonder what don't I know that I don't know? Is there more history to be found, if only I had the skills, time, and budget to do so?

For researchers of Peregrine White, life just got easier. The Board of the Marshfield Historical Society commissioned Stephen O'Neill to research and produce a biography of Peregrine. Our PWWS also contributed financial support, and the result

is the 117-page story of Peregrine's birth onboard the Mayflower, his life in Plymouth and Marshfield, and his death in 1704.

Book chapters are well organized and follow the chapters of Peregrine's own life, such as "Peregrine the Settler" and "Peregrine's Military Life." O'Neill invoked a smile in me as he described how 28-year-old Peregrine and his new wife Sarah Bassett, then visibly pregnant, had to appear in front of a magistrate on charges of fornication before marriage or contract. They admitted guilt and paid a fine, and O'Neill adds the context of statistics that show such fornication was not at all uncommon in Plymouth at the time.

O'Neill also provides the context for studying our grandfather or uncle in the first place. In Chapter 1 called "Peregrine, 'The First,'" he states that we Americans have always been fascinated with "firsts." We love our Mayflower origin story that has such a prominent role in our history. And we love that wicker cradle in Pilgrim Hall Museum that is a visible reminder of Peregrine's status as first English baby in New England.

The book ends with a chapter called "Legacy," and it includes an inventory of artifacts and documents associated with Peregrine. These relics include a wooden cane made from Peregrine's apple tree, nails and wood from his house, and his will. Eleven days after Peregrine's death, the Boston News-Letter published this notice:

Marshfield, July 22, Capt.  
Peregrine White of this Town,  
Aged Eighty three years, and  
Eight Months; died the 20<sup>th</sup>  
Instant. He was vigorous and of  
a comly Aspect to the last; Was  
the Son of Mr William White  
and Susanna his Wife; born on  
board the Mayflower; Capt.  
Jones Commander, in Cape Cod  
Harbour, November 1620. was



the First Englishman born in New-England. Altho' he was in the former part of his Life extravagant; yet was much Reform'd in his last years; and died hopefully.

Comely, formerly extravagant, dying hopefully. RIP Peregrine.

## More on Peregrine White

Marshfield's Town Historian, Cynthia Hagar Krusell, published a book about the last days of the Pilgrim settlement called *Plymouth Colony to Plymouth County: The Land, the Church, the People 1680-1690*. (120 pages, 6" x 9", perfect bound, ISBN 978-0-557-33178-9).

This is a sequel to *The Life of Peregrine White* and explores his world in the last decade of Peregrine's life.

Marshfield Historical Society Books offers a limited number of the *Colony to County* books for \$22 plus \$5 shipping and handling. *The Life of Peregrine White* is \$20 plus \$5 shipping and handling. One copy of each book is offered to members of the PWWS for \$40 plus \$5 for shipping and Handling.

To order, write a check to "Marshfield Historical Society – Books", and mail it to MHS-Books, 79 Parker Street, Marshfield, MA 02050.

## More Scrooby Photos

Cousin **Jean Seeley** sent us some more photos from her visit to Scrooby. These are of the church and adjoining church yard.





## Welcome New Members

**Chantel Lynn West -- Peregrine**

**Frederick S. Voss -- Resolved**

**James Roy Hollifield -- Resolved**

**Tracy Lambert Glatz -- Resolved**

**Gloria Gibbel -- Resolved**

## Letters to the Editor

*Hello Cousin Michael,*

Good Morning,  
Thank you, for sending the newsletter. I truly enjoyed reading it.

*Jane D Schleinzer*

*Hello Mike!*

I bought a signed copy of the book  
[*The Life of Peregrine White, the First Englishman Born in New England.*] in December! Very happy with it.  
Thanks,

*Cousin Denise*

*Hi Cousin Michael,*

I just read the recent Mayflower Quarterly. On page 5 there is an article about Janet Skirrow, a White descendant,

who donated \$1.7 million upon her death, to the Mayflower Meetinghouse. I thought you might like to use excerpts of the article in our next newsletter.

Thanks!

*Carol*

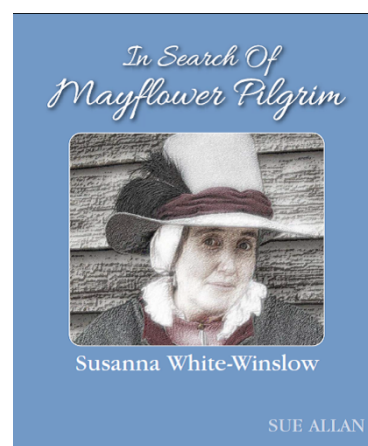
*Hello Cousin Mike,*

I am on the GSMD Juniors committee chaired by a creative and enthusiastic lady named Peggy Marsh. I don't recall seeing anything for juniors in our newsletter, and would you maybe from time- to- time want an article or craft activity from her? I am sure much of her stuff is shared in the Texas and other societies who have Juniors newsletters (Illinois does not.)

If you are not interested, let me know. I don't know how hard it is for you to get content. I will forward her emails next. If you want to make it more centered on a White descendant, I can pose my granddaughter in a photo with the candleholder craft.

*Best, Ann*

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



[www.mayflowermaid.com](http://www.mayflowermaid.com)

# Squanto

## Friend, Helper, Guide and Teacher

In chilly November of 1620, the Pilgrims came to America on the *Mayflower*. They had very little food and they needed to survive. They cut trees and built simple houses in Plymouth the first winter. But the Pilgrims were not farmers. A Native American from the Patuxet tribe was introduced to the Pilgrims. He had learned English while being held captive by fishermen and instantly became a great friend to the English settlers, our Pilgrim ancestors.

As a *friend*, Squanto helped the children find native berries in the woods. As a *helper*, he introduced the Pilgrims to other Native American tribes, such as the Wampanoag. As a *guide*, Squanto showed the Pilgrims where to hunt and how eel hide in the muddy bottom of Town Brook. In the early spring, Squanto as a *teacher*, taught the Pilgrims how to plant fish in the soil with the corn seeds for a bountiful harvest.

Here is a corn husk craft from *Many Hoops*:

### Corn Husk Luminaries

<http://manyhoops.com/corn-husk-luminarios.html>



luminaries pictured below, are and fun to make. Make certain the is not near the husk and place your surface that will not burn easily. Each light the luminary, remember Squanto friendship and partnership with your

Corn Husks  
Glass jars  
Rubber bands

String, jute, leather, yarn or raffia  
Tea lights or votive candles

Soak the corn husks in water for about 10 minutes so they become pliable.

On the bottom of the jar wrap several corn husks. Make sure the corn husk edges are level with the bottom of the jar. Secure the bottom with a rubber band. Wrap your choice of cord, the twine, raffia, etc. around the jar. You can wrap it on top of the rubber band or remove the rubber band after wrapping.

On the top of the jar, you'll want to bend down the corn husks and then place the rubber band over them to keep them in place. Then wrap with your choice of cord. I added beads to the raffia at the top of the jar for an extra decorative accent.



The corn husk inexpensive candle wick candle on a time you and his ancestors.





Squanto showing a Pilgrim how  
to plant corn in a mound of dirt  
with herring as a fertilizer.

**The Pilgrim William White Society**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As of 31 October 2020**

<b>Assets</b>	
17000 · Checking Account-BAO	\$6,897.37
18000 · Savings Account-BOA	1,603.15
18600 · Investment Account-Vanguard	<u>4,011.64</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$12,512.16</u></b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
27100 Deferred Revenue-Prepaid Dues	<u>\$1,240.00</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b><u>\$1,240.00</u></b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	9,594.65
Excess Receipts over Expenditures	1,677.51
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b><u>11,272.16</u></b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE \$</b>	<b><u>\$12,512.16</u></b>

**Statement of Financial Transactions**

January 2021

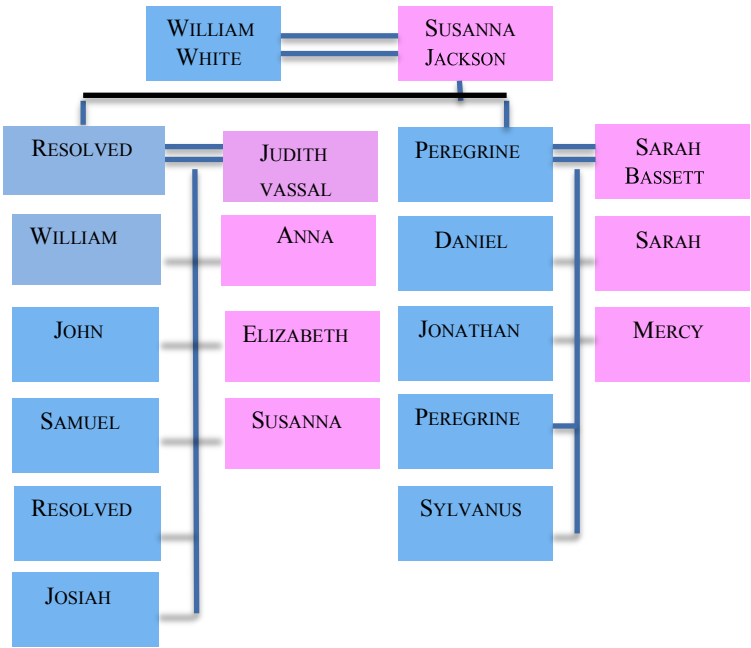
Jan 21		Budget	\$ Over Budget	%of Budget
<b>Receipts</b>				
45000 · Investments				
45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	\$0.01	\$10.00	(\$9.99)	0.1%
45050 · Increase/Decrease Mkt Value	0.00	350.00	-350.00	0.0%
Total 45000 · Investments	0.01	360.00	-359.99	0.0%
47200 · Program Income				
47230 · Membership Dues	1,595.00	1,590.00	5.00	100.31%
47235 · New Member Dues	30.00	195.00	-165.00	15.39%
47240 · New Descendant Memberships	50.00	325.00	-275.00	15.39%
47250 · Donations and Contributions	10.00	100.00	-90.00	10.0%
Total 47200 · Program Income	1,685.00	2,210.00	-525.00	76.24%
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$1,685.01</b>	<b>\$2,570.00</b>	<b>(\$884.99)</b>	<b>65.57%</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
62100 · Contract Services				
62150 · Website Maintenance Services	\$0.00	\$200.00	(\$200.00)	0.0%
Total 62100 · Contract Services	0.00	200.00		0.0%
65020 · Postage, Mailing Service	7.50	125.00	-117.50	6.0%
65030 · Printing and Copying	0.00	20.00	-20.00	0.0%
65043 · Children's Expenditures	0.00	75.00	-75.00	0.0%
65045 · Donations and Contributions	0.00	650.00	-650.00	0.0%
Total 65000 · Operations	7.50	870.00	-862.50	0.86%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>7.50</b>	<b>1,070.00</b>	<b>-1,062.50</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
<b>Excess Receipts over Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,677.51</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>(\$177.51)</b>	<b>111.83%</b>



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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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THE PILGRIM WILLIAM WHITE SOCIETY  
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