

In Search of Mayflower Pilgrim



Susanna White-Winslow

Like many of the female *Mayflower* passengers, the family origins of Pilgrim Susanna White-Winslow have for too long remained a mystery

You may ask why it is so important to be able to identify the family roots of this woman?

The truth is that *all* of the women of the *Mayflower* were important to the seeding of the Plymouth Colony, and yet we know so very little about their lives simply because of their gender.

They were born into an era where women had very few legal rights, were unable to exercise ownership over property unless widowed, and were regarded almost as 'property' themselves.

Thus, genealogically researching these women is particularly challenging as there is often little trace of them in written records.

The first vital clues to Susanna's family identity came in a letter unexpectedly found in the Lincolnshire Archives.

The letter was addressed to a gentleman named Robert Jackson in Spalding and was written by Susanna's second husband, Mayflower Pilgrim Edward Winslow in 1623.

Edward calls Mr Jackson 'his much respected 'Uncle' but it is clear that he has never met Mr Jackson in person.

In this letter Edward asks for news about Susanna's un-named father and her brother and sisters.



6. m ~~White~~ William White, and
Susana his wife; and one sone
caled resolved, and one borne
a ship-bord caled perigrine; &
2. servants, named
William Holbeck, & Edward Thomso

All that was previously known about Susanna, for certain, was that she was married to William White when the couple crossed the Atlantic on the *Mayflower*, and that with them was their young son, Resolved.

The family roots of Susanna's husband, William White, had been equally anonymous but in 2017 as the four-hundredth anniversary of the sailing of the *Mayflower* approached, that mystery was helped to be solved by researcher Sue Allan.

Robert Jackson died at Spalding in 1625 and left a will which names many family members and acquaintances. Over the years however, American genealogists had studied the will in detail but had failed to trace Robert Jackson's family tree at Spalding.

A major clue was that Robert asked to be buried near to his dead father who had been interred behind the font in Spalding Church, but a search of the parish records failed to identify which of the many Jackson burials was that of Robert's father.

By a stroke of luck, Sue Allan's interest was spiked by the previously overlooked burial entry of a man at Spalding named James Jackson, who was not from that area but instead from one that she knew well. Although recorded in the register as 'Brewell', Sue knew this to be a corruption of the place-name Braithwell, near Doncaster.



Sue had previously researched Separatist Richard Jackson of Scrooby – a close friend and ally of leading Pilgrim William Brewster.

At 22 , Richard can be found, in documents, as a school teacher in Braithwell. Many of those he had studied with at Cambridge University became radical Puritans. At Braithwell the leading families were also Puritans and so Richard may have taught their children , forging many useful social contacts.

In 1591, Richard was licenced by the Church as School Master at nearby Tickhill Grammar School.

It was probably at Tickhill that Richard met his future bride , and Susanna's mother, Mary Pettinger.

The couple chose to marry at Doncaster in 1591.

Two letters were discovered in the Lincolnshire Archives, written to Robert Jackson, by *his* brother, Richard Jackson. Robert later leaves a bequest to the son of this brother, Richard, in his will.

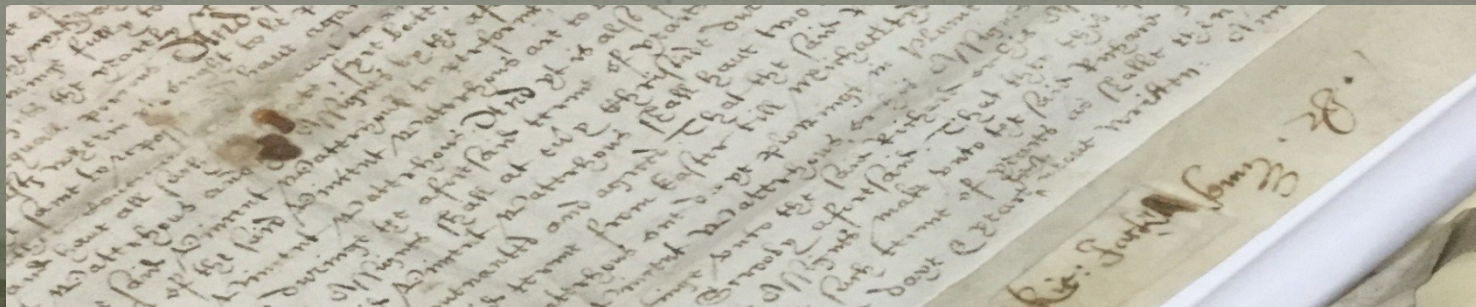
The first letter dated July 1623, named a sister, Jane, who suffered abuse from her 'slavish' husband. Brother Richard begged sibling Robert to help find refuge for her. A sister, Jane, also appears in Robert's will and a '*Jane Jackson, wife of William Jackson of Braithwell*' was later buried at Spalding.

The letter was written at a place called '*Eventon*' or '*Everton*'. There is a small village named Everton close to Cambridge, but Sue Allan's instinct told her that it was probably written at Everton near Scrooby In Nottinghamshire.



& Receiver.

As Richard, the brother of Robert Jackson of Spalding, had signed the letters to his sibling, and Richard Jackson of Braithwell had signed a lease to Scrooby Manor, it was possible to compare all three signatures and to prove that all belonged to the same person.





Over the years, many members of this Pettinger family were clergymen ministering to congregations at Treswell, Babworth, West Retford and Mattersey.

In turn, these Pettinger clergymen intermarried into the families of other local clergy, including that of Rev William Denman of Retford and Rev Robert Lilley of Babworth forming a close local Puritan network and laying a foundation for our later local Separatists.



After 400 years we now know that Mayflower Passenger Susanna White-Winslow grew up at Scrooby Manor and that her father, Richard Jackson, was a member of the Separatist congregation at Scrooby and her mother, Mary, from a highly religious family.

In 1608, when the Scrooby Separatists made their escape to Holland, Susanna must have gone with them, where she met and married William White.

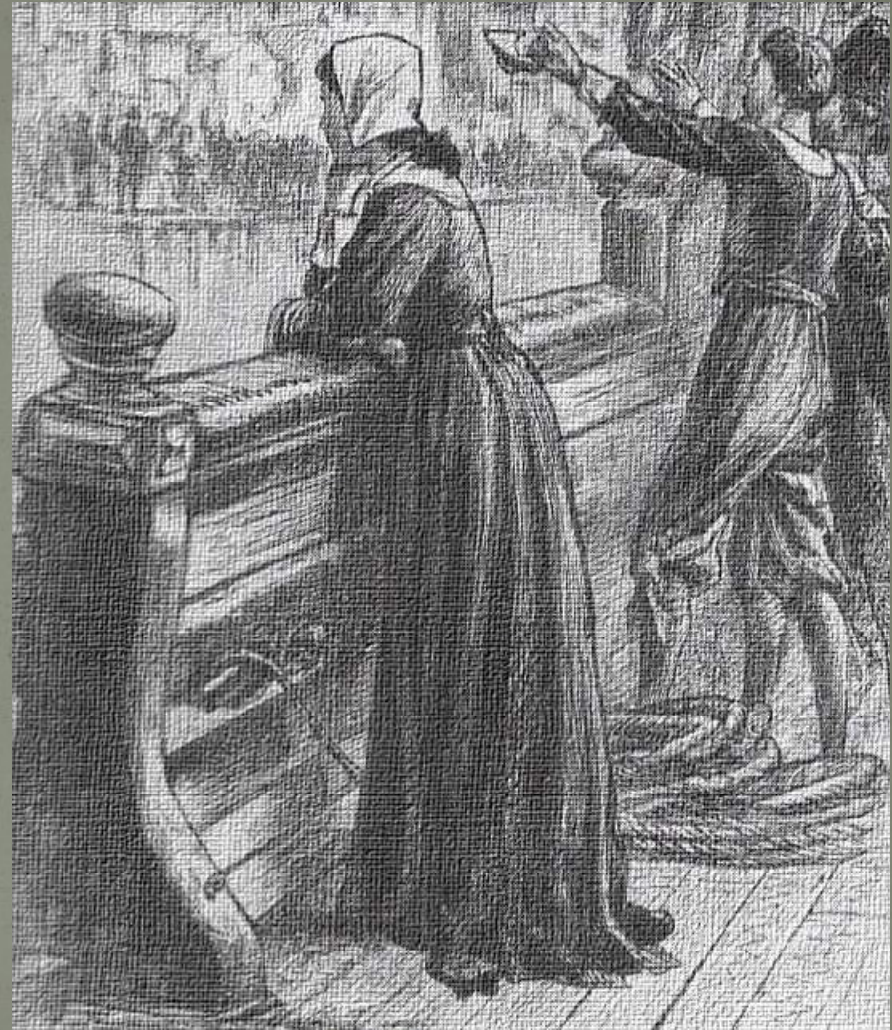
William White and his niece, Dorothy May (Bradford), were known members of the Separatist Ancient Brethren Church in Amsterdam.

After 12 years in exile, the Scrooby Separatists decided to leave Holland and to settle instead in the New World.

Susanna, her husband, William White, and their young son, Resolved, were among the 102 passengers aboard the *Mayflower* when it eventually left Plymouth in Devon in September 1620.

There were 18 adult women on board; all married.

Susanna was 1 of 3 women on the *Mayflower* who were in the third trimester of pregnancy.





After a stormy crossing, the *Mayflower* arrived off Cape Cod almost two months after leaving England.

Aboard ship, Susanna gave birth to a son, the first Pilgrim child to be born after reaching the New World. The Whites named him Peregrine, meaning 'one from abroad'; a foreigner, traveller, or pilgrim.

Shortly after, William White got sick and died. In all, half of the *Mayflower* passengers died that first winter. Only 5 women, including Susanna, remained alive the following spring; one, Katherine Carver, died soon after.

Edward Winslow was also widowed that first winter. In May 1621, Susanna became Edward's wife; it was the first Pilgrim wedding in New England.

Susanna would spend much of her marriage apart from her husband as he criss-crossed the Atlantic on business for the colony. Edward can often be found assisting Governor William Bradford and also served 3 times as Governor himself, which at times would have made Susanna the most important woman in the colony.





After the English Civil War, Edward Winslow returned to England where he was held in high esteem by the new regime. Susanna stayed behind.

In December 1654, he was chosen by Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell to serve as his commissioner on a military expedition to the West Indies. He died at sea the following May.

Susanna is last heard of in a petition to Oliver Cromwell's Council in April 1656.

The date of her death is unknown.

Her surviving White and Winslow children led full lives as citizens of New England. Her son, Josiah Winslow, would later follow in his father's footsteps and serve as the Governor of Plymouth Colony.



Sue Allan's tenacious pursuit of the origins of the Mayflower passengers in England led us from Dorothy May Bradford's family, to William White's family in Wisbech, which in turn led to her assembling all the pieces necessary to solve the mystery of the origin of Mayflower passenger Susanna (Jackson) White Winslow -- something researchers have been trying to puzzle out for many decades without success.

The amazing conclusion that Susanna was the daughter of Richard Jackson of Braithwell (who married in Doncaster and later moved to Scrooby Manor) and who was among those directly tied to John Robinson and William Brewster's separatist congregation, places this woman in the centre of the history of the Pilgrims and the colonization of America. A woman whose maiden name was not even known up until last year, now has a complete biography assembled by Sue Allan that places Susanna in the middle of the entire Pilgrim story. At last, her White and Winslow descendants have an ancestral homeland in England to visit.

Caleb Johnson, American Mayflower Historian



What was the connection between Susanna (Jackson) White-Winslow and Governor William Bradford of Austerfield?

Susanna's first husband was Pilgrim William White of Wisbech. William White was the half-brother of Henry May, a leading member of the Ancient Brethren Church in Amsterdam.

Henry May's daughter, Dorothy May, married William Bradford in Leiden, but later fell to her death from the Mayflower.

So William Bradford would have regarded Susanna as his aunt.

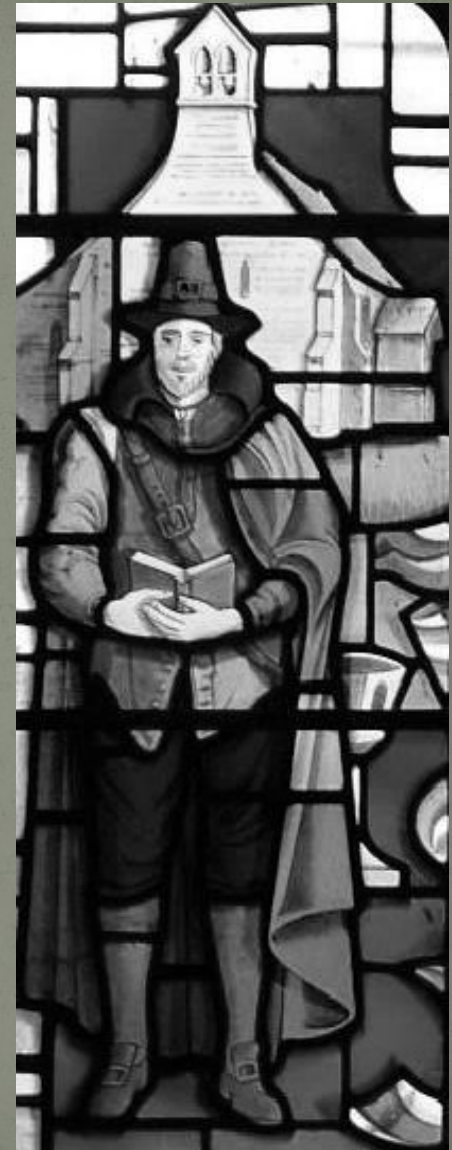


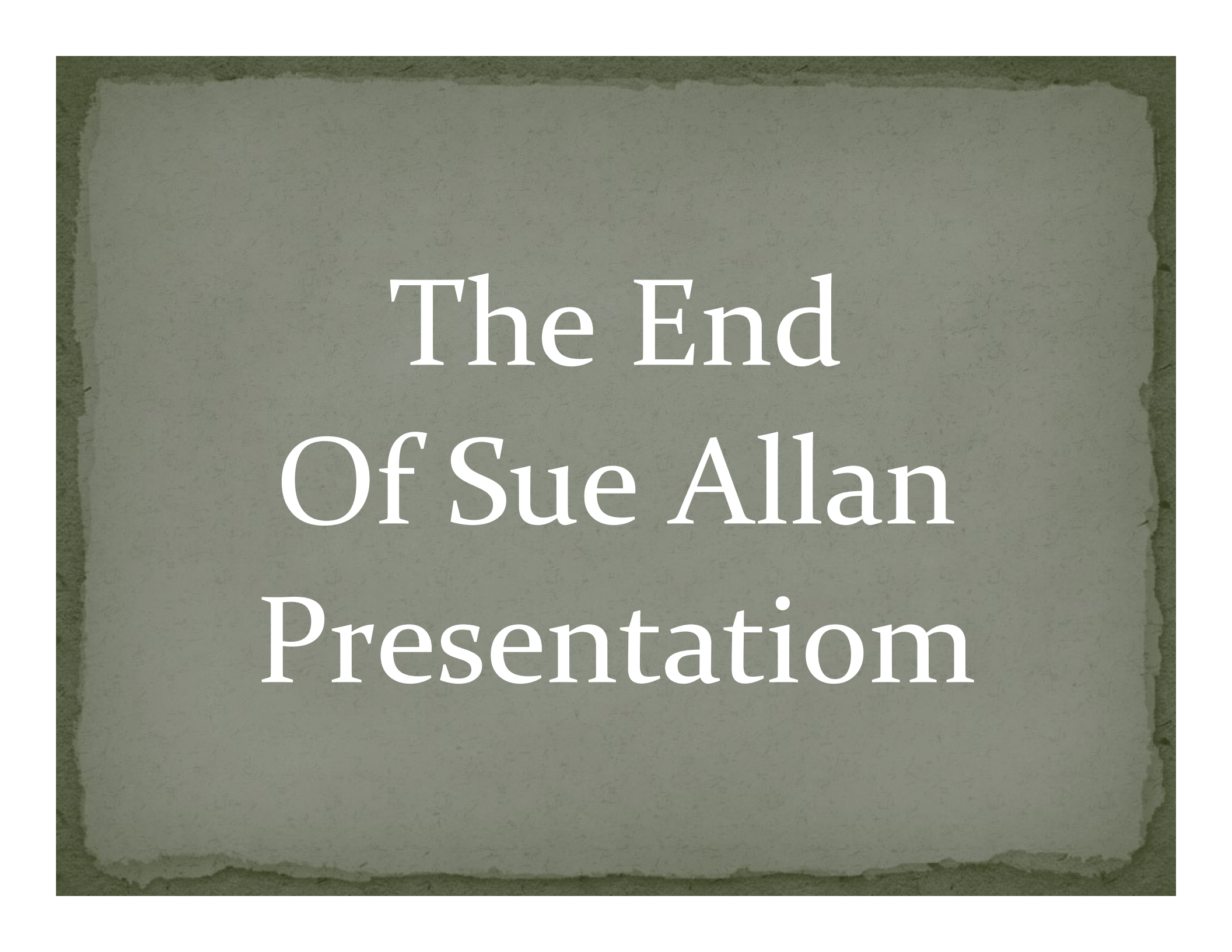
After Dorothy May's death, in 1623 William Bradford married widow Alice (Carpenter) Southworth.

A little known genealogical fact discovered by Sue Allan is that William Bradford was already related to Alice by marriage.

William Bradford's cousin, Robert Bradford of Austerfield, had married (one of twin sisters) Elizabeth Southworth of Clarborough. Elizabeth was the sister of Leiden Separatist Edward Southworth who died in 1620/21.

Alice Carpenter was the widow of Edward Southworth...





The End Of Sue Allan Presentation

Sites

Relating to the Pilgrims

Susanna Jackson and William White

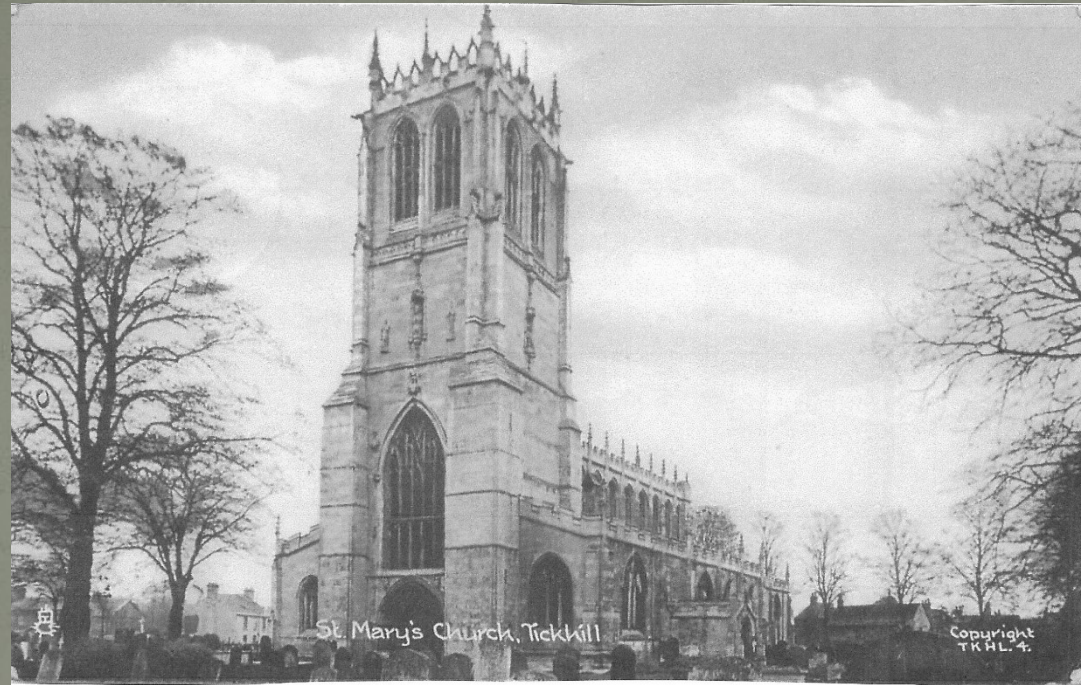
In Early Postcards and Pictures

By D. Alan Smith

Braithwell Parish Church of St. James

The home church of James
Jackson and his family prior to
their moving to Spalding,
Doncaster and Scrooby

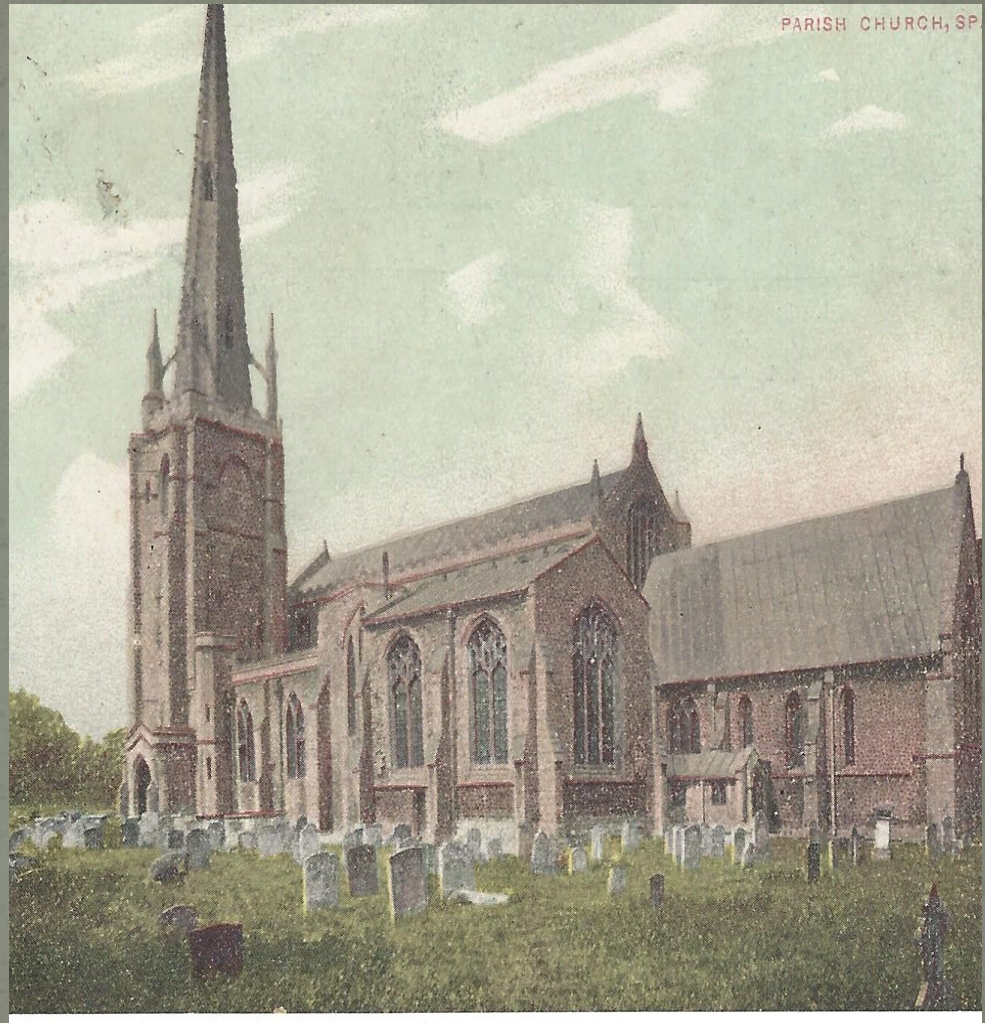




The Wisbeck Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul is the home church of the William White, where he was baptized on 25 January 1586. He is the son of Edward White and Thomasine(Cross) May White. After their deaths he lived with his maternal grandmother Jacomine Cross. On her death he went to Amsterdam, where his half siblings, Henry and Jacomine May had fled. Jacomine May married Jean de l'Ecuse, which William witnessed. Henry's daughter Dorothy married William Bradford. She died tragically in Provincetown harbor by falling overboard. In the 19th century a story was written that she committed suicide. Unfortunately this lie still circulates. William and Susana became the only members of Henry Ainsworth's church to migrate on the Mayflower. The other Ainsworth members backed out.

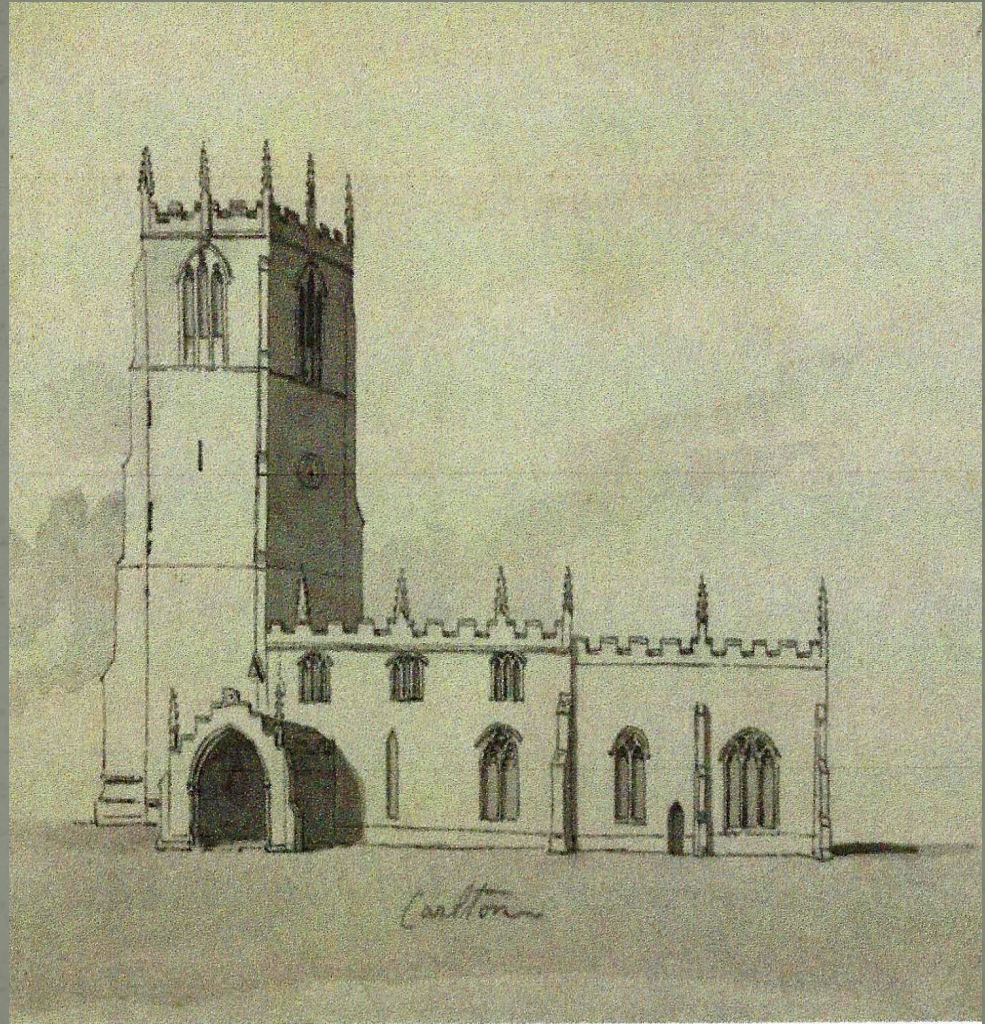
Spalding Parish Church of St. Mary and St . Nicholas

The site of James Jackson's crypt near the baptismal font. Robert, his son, is buried in the same crypt. Unfortunately the floor was replaced as was the font in the 19th century; so the exact site is uncertain.



Carlton-in-Lindrick Parish Church of St John the Evangelist

This is the parish church of the Pettingers. There were burial monuments to them now lost when the Lady's Chapel was removed in the Reformation. It dates from the late Saxon and early Norman period. This drawing was done in 1773 by Samuel Hieronymus Grimm. It would have appeared like this to the Pettingers. It was considerably "restored" in the 19th century as were so many churches in England.



Doncaster Parish Church of St. George

The parish church where Richard Jackson and Mary Pettinger were married. Richard, the youngest brother, is probably the same Richard Jackson who attended Cambridge. As a teacher Richard had to have a university education. By 1598 he had moved to Scrooby Manor when he was the bailiff of the Archbishop of York.

The church burned in 1853. The church known Richard Jackson and Mary Pettinger is portrayed in this 18th century painting.



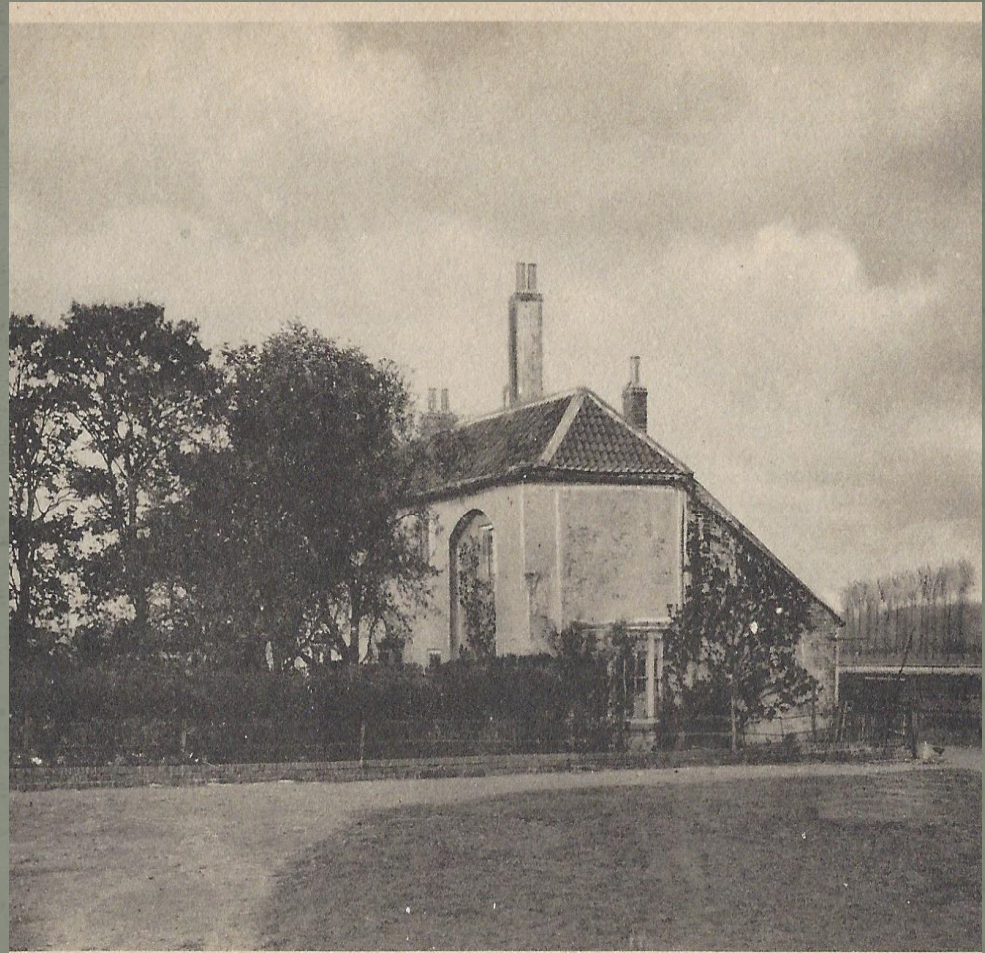
Scrooby Parish Church of St. Wilfrid

The church of record for Richard Jackson and his family including Susanna as well as for Brewster and William Bradford. Brewster would repeat the sermons privately that he had heard at Babsworth. Later, they would attend the church when required by law after Clyfton was expelled from the Babsworth church in 1605.



Scrooby Manor

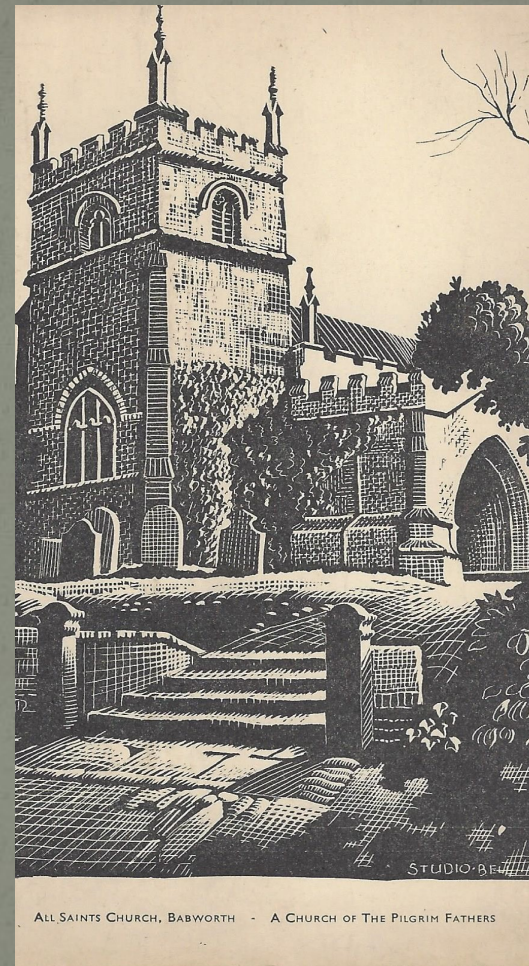
The only remaining section of the impressive palace of Archbishop of York. The manor had been one of the last residences of Cardinal Woolsey after his fall. We now know this section was the actual home for the Jacksons. The Great Hall now destroyed was the residence for the Brewsters.



SCROOBY MANOR HOUSE, ELDER WILLIAM BREWSTER'S RESIDENCE, ENGLAND

Babsworth Parish Church of All Saints

This church was the primary church for the Separatist in the area. Richard, his family, including Susanna would have worshipped here with the Brewsters and young William Bradford. Richard Clyfton, the vicar, was a major Separatist leader in England and in Holland.



ALL SAINTS CHURCH, BABWORTH - A CHURCH OF THE PILGRIM FATHERS

Boston Guildhall

Originally the Guildhall of St Mary is the site of the jail of the fleeing Separatist men in 1607. Their first attempt failed because of a betrayal by the ship's captain, who was to transport them to Holland. Bradford does not give the names of all men imprisoned there. So it is not known if Richard Jackson was definitely in the group. Since he and Bradford were named in a warrant for "Brownism" in 1607, it would seem most likely that he would have been one of those fleeing. It was later noted that he had fled Scrooby.



111 TOWN HALL, BOSTON. (PRISON OF JOHN COTTON & OTHER PILGRIM FATHERS.)

Cells under Boston Guildhall

These are later cells but they
would resemble those of the
Separatist prisoners.



The Zuiderkerk in Amsterdam

This church is burial site of the Reverend Robert Clyfton and his wife. The Separatist church, led by Henry Ainsworth and where William and Susanna White worshipped, was destroyed in the late 17th century. The location of the church is the site of the State Opera and Theatre. William's brother Henry and his brother-in-law Jean de l'Ecluse were principle lay leaders in this congregation. Zuiderkerk is the only church site remaining with a Pilgrim connection. While we know that William, Susanna and Resolved left Amsterdam to travel on the Mayflower, we know nothing of Richard Jackson's fate. We are his monument.



The Mayflower at Harbor

Such a small ship with so much future.

Without these dedicated men, women and children we would not be here celebrating their victory in this new land, this New Plimoth.



"The Mayflower", in which the Pilgrim Fathers arrived, at anchor in the ice, **Plymouth, Mass.**

The End
of the
William and Susanna Jackson
White
Sites Slides