



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

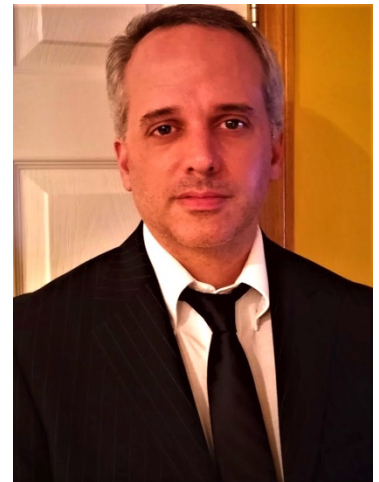
Dear Cousins,

Our family society now has 190 lineage members and counting. Will we reach 200 lineage members this year? We also have 31 friend members, some being descendants who still may be working on establishing their lineage. Thank you all for being a vital part of our community.

Spring is well underway and hope everyone is getting outside more and enjoying the nicer weather. The spring season must have been a welcome relief for our Pilgrim ancestors after a challenging first winter in the colony. The Pilgrims were very much accustomed to hardship long before their arrival at the new settlement. William White and his half-siblings were excommunicated. The Separatists faced persecution in England, were exiled to Holland, made heart-wrenching decisions to leave family behind, and endured arduous ocean travel in the tween decks on a cargo ship. Susanna White became a widow. It was not an easy time at all, but the resilient Mayflower group still gave thanks for their provisions and continued to build.

On the home page of our website is a list of books and journal articles pertaining to our historical family. I have most of these in my personal library and they are good reminders of our unique heritage.

Patrick



Governor Patrick White

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A Tour of Braithwell

By Cousin Alan Smith

While we have some images of 15th and 16th century Wisbech, there are far fewer images of Jackson Era buildings or sites in Braithwell. While Braithwell is recorded in the Doms Day Book, it seems to have remained a small place. There are the ruins of Roche Abbey and the lower part of a village cross which apparently dates from the release from Richard the Lion Hearted's captivity. The other graded sites date much later. The parish church of St. James is the major site connected with the Jackson's. Below is a post card of the

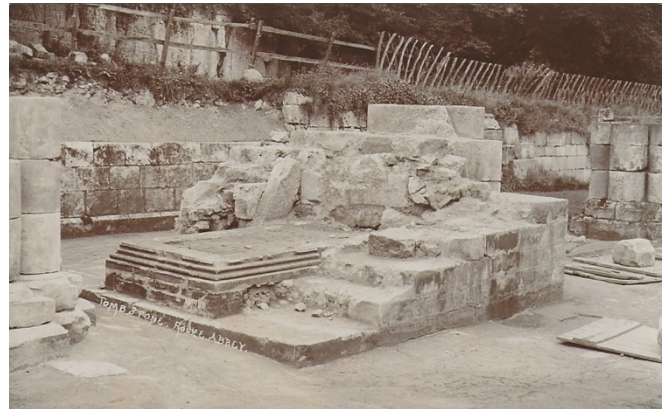


church in 1906.

The church (then called All Hallow's) has the lost remains of Thomas Jackson, who died after 30 November 1533. (Allan, *In Search of Mayflower Pilgrim Susanna White-Winslow*, p. 64). Sue Allan believes him to be the great-grandfather of Richard Jackson, Susanna's father. (Allan, p. 22)

The intact Roche Abbey would have been familiar to Thomas since

he died before the Dissolution under Henry VIII. His grandchildren would have known the ruins in this post



card from 1918.

“This (the destruction of the abbey) was done on the instruction of (Thomas) Cromwell, as [Fox](#) reports in his *Book of Acts and Monuments*. It would have pitted any heart to see the tearing up of the lead, the plucking up of boards and throwing down of the rafters. And when the lead was torn off and cast down into the church and the tombs in the church were all broken for in most abbeys various noblemen and women were buried, and in some kings, but their tombs were no more regarded than those of lesser persons, for to what end should they stand when the church over them was not spared for their cause and all things of value were spoiled, plucked away or utterly defaced”

An account by Michael Sherbrook, a priest from nearby [Wickersley](#) in Roche Abbey entry on Wikipedia. Thomas' children and grandchildren would have known the abbey's remaining grange even after the Dissolution as a part of a working

farm. Later, the grange survived as multi occupant tenement until the 1940's.

The remains of the cross below has a plaque stating that it was erected to celebrate King Richard I's freedom from bondage in 1191 and was restored in 1953 in honor of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

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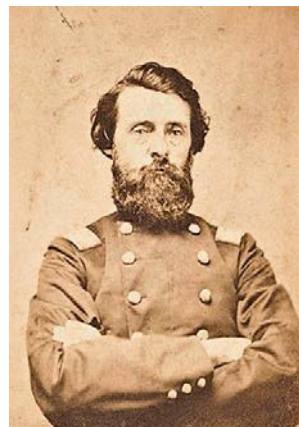
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A General Ancestor

By Cousin Richard Burke

Hello White Cousins, I would like to share a bit of lineage on my maternal, non-White side. My maternal 2nd great grandfather is John Homer Howe. He is from Riga, Monroe Co., New York. John

became an attorney in about 1850 while living near Ashtabula, Ohio. Rather than attending law school he did it the Abraham Lincoln way, he studied under several practicing lawyers. Howe's, spouse Julia A. Howe (nee Castle) along with four of their five children eventually moved to Kewanee Illinois where he started a law practice. In 1862 child five, Jessie Fremont Howe (my mother's great grandmother) was born in



Kewanee, Illinois. While serving as an area judge, Howe joined the Union Army as Captain of the 124th Illinois Infantry Regiment. Shortly thereafter Captain Howe was promoted to Lt. Col winning distinction during the Vicksburg campaign.

In 1865 Howe was made a Brevet Brigadier General.

On 6 April, 1869, President U.S. Grant appointed Howe chief justice of the Wyoming Territory. In 1870, the Territory of Wyoming gave women the right to vote. Howe, as chief justice, interpreted this to mean that women could also serve on juries. His ruling was not popular with male lawyers and they eventually got Howe's successor to reverse this policy. Howe resigned 14 October 1871 and was later appointed as secretary to a commission adjudicating a boundary dispute between the U.S. and Mexico.

While in Laredo, Texas, Howe died.



His wife Julie arranged for his casket to be transported via train to Kewanee, Illinois for burial. His grave is marked a 4-foot-high monument adorned with a GAR medal.

Julie moved to Phoenix, Arizona to live with her daughter Jessie Fremont

Higley (nee Howe) and her two grandchildren where she died in 1898.

Julie's granddaughter, Jessie Jean Lane (nee Higley) was born in Prescott, Arizona. At the time Prescott was the capital of the Arizona Territory.

Similar to many of our White cousins I have many (8) gateway *Mayflower* ancestors.

Resolved and Jamestowne

By Cousin Stephen Edward Millard

Four years ago, as a new member, I sent an article for the April 2019 TPWWS newsletter. Here it is again as a reminder, and as information for our newer members who are Resolved White descendants, they can join The Jamestowne Society. I have also included some updated material.

John Vassall (1563-1625) was a stockholder in the Virginia Company and John Vassall the Elder was a French Huguenot from Normandy, who sent his son, also named John Vassall, to live in England. John Vassall, of Essex County, England, was born in Normandy, France; died in 1625 of the plague; and was buried in St. Dunstan, Stepney Parish, Middlesex, England. He financed the fitting out of two ships, the *Samuel* and the *Little Toby* and commanded them in the battle against the Spanish Armada in 1588. As a reward, Queen Elizabeth I granted John Vassall an English coat of arms for his service, which the Vassall family used to replace those of his French ancestors. John Vassall served as an alderman of London and as a vestryman in Stepney Parish. He was an investor in the Virginia Company and subscribed to two shares of stock by investing £25.10.0 in 1618. John Vassall had three wives, all of whom he married at St. Stepney Parish: (1) Anne Hewes (no issue), (2) Anne Russell, and (3) Judith Borough, widow of Thomas Scott of Essex.

Vassall had eleven children with (2) Anne Russell: Judith; John (died at age 2); Samuel; John; William; Anna; Rachel; Stephen; Thomas; Mary; and Elizabeth. Some of John Vassall's children stayed in England; his children with American ties are: RACHEL, who married Peter Andrewes, master of the *Mayflower*; SAMUEL, who invested in the first Massachusetts Company, traded with New England and Virginia, was interested in the settlement of Carolina, undertook an exploratory voyage to Florida, and died aboard the *Marygold* enroute to Virginia; WILLIAM, who was named in the first charter of Massachusetts, took his wife and six children to Massachusetts to live, returned to England, and finally settled in Barbados.

The grandchildren of John Vassall with American ties are: JUDITH [daughter of William], who married Resolved White [son of *Mayflower* pilgrims William and Susanna White] in Massachusetts; MARY, [daughter of Samuel] who died on the voyage to Virginia; FRANCES [daughter of William], who married James Adams in Massachusetts; JOHN [son of William], who lived in Massachusetts, North Carolina, Virginia, and Jamaica; ANNA [daughter of William], who married Nicholas Ware of Old Rappahannock County, Virginia.

Resolved White descendants are also eligible to join up to two Jamestowne Society Companies. Note well also, their ancestral ties to Resolved's wife, Judith Vassall, not only connect them to The Jamestowne Society through her grandfather John Vassall II, but also to The Winthrop Society through Judith's father, William Vassall, and also to The Huguenot Society through her great-grandfather, John Vassall I.

Here is a photo of me and my mother (Helen Joy Irons Millard) taken in 2019 when I was 70, and she was 94. We are standing in front of her *Mayflower* Society

Membership Certificate. She has just celebrated her 98th birthday.



Another Plug for Toni

By Cousin Lina Smith

It may have already been done, but I recently read the book by Toni Kief, *Saints, Strangers and Rosehip Tea*. It is excellent! As a descendant of William and Susannah White, I felt like I got a real feel for what their lives were like before, during and after their journey. I realize that there is no actual documentation for the conversations and some of the tasks they performed, but we know that those things mentioned in the book had to be done. For Susannah, with only a few women surviving that first year, she had to have participated in most things. If you haven't yet read the book, I would highly recommend it.

Why We Do This

By Cousin Alan Smith

One of my secret but real joys is watching *Finding Your Roots* on PBS because of the sincere caring and humanity of the show. Dr. Louis Gates, Jr., brings warmth and sensitivity to often troubling parts of the guests' histories. Most guests have lost significant parts of their life story.

In episode ten the actor Tamara Mowry-Houseley was one of the guests. The first part of the explorations focused on the Bahamian roots of her mother's family and their migration to the United States in the early 20th century. The second half examined her paternal roots which reached back to a town and house dear to us -- Scrooby and its existing Manor. Her ancestor was Elder Brewster. Dr. Gates drew a profound picture of the families at Scrooby and their flight to Amsterdam and then to Plymouth. While the Jacksons were not mentioned at Scrooby (it was about her ancestors after all). He then showed her Bradford's *Of Plimoth Plantation* lifting up the section on the deaths in February. The screen zoomed in to the entries. Her voice began to break as she read death after death concluding with "Mr. White and his two servants soon died after their landing." The 400th Anniversary Edition *Of Plimoth Plantation*, p. 547. She was so moved by the sheer number of death and her regret at not knowing this part of her story. **This is a major reason for us as a Society to make sure that** William, Susanna, Resolved and Peregrine are not lost. The episode is available on PBS Passports.



Triennial PWWS Meeting

Cousins, the 43rd Mayflower General Society Congress will take place in Plymouth Massachusetts September 8-13. You can

register and view information at the Society website <https://themayflowersociety.org>

The Pilgrim William White Society will have its Triennial meeting and dinner on Monday, September 11th, 6:30-9:00 in the Clover Room at the Hotel 1620 Plymouth Harbor, 180 Water Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360.

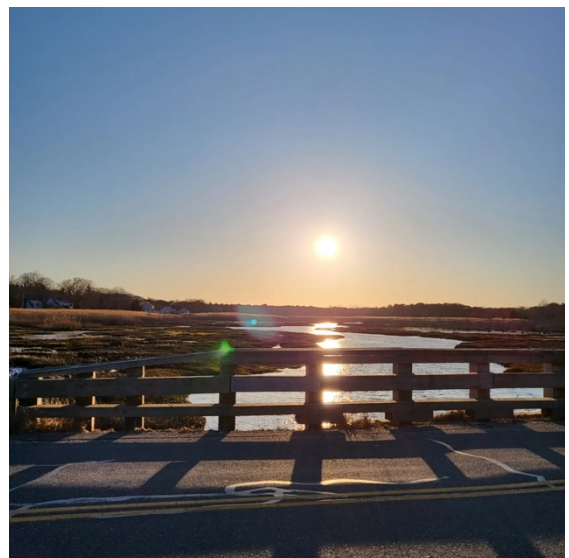
Our First meeting took place at the Congress in 2014. Below is our first group photo with founding members Barbara Williams, James Fowler, Barbara Blevins, Janet Dowling, Everett White, Pat Nichols, Mary Helen (Marylen) Jackson, William (Bill) Kelleher, Prarie Counce, Susan (Susie) Wuest, Lowry Watkins, Jr., Leah Davis, Janet Hussey, John White, Nancy Lasar, Judy Benese Scherrer, Eileen Patch, Kenneth Whittemore, and David Grinnell



Looking for Sea Glass

By cousin Denise Recupero

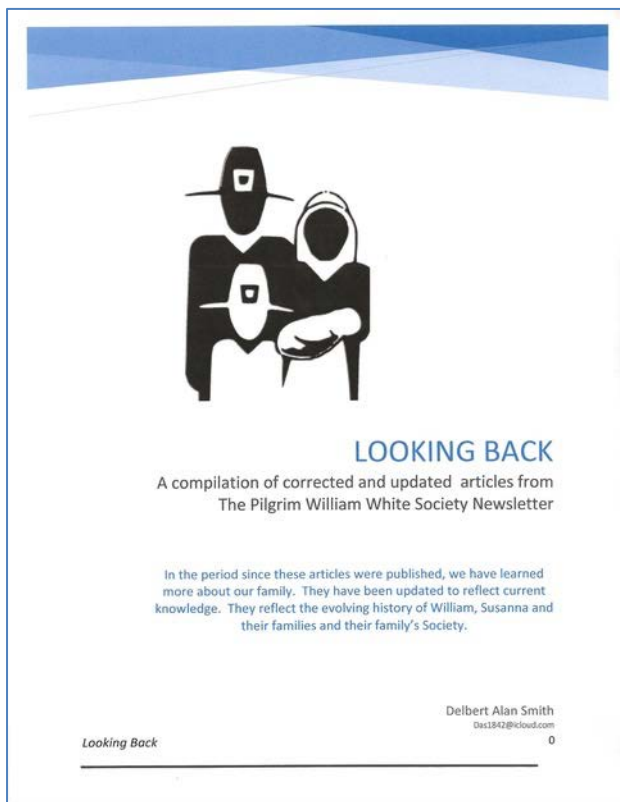
In March we visited Dennis Port on Cape Cod. It was beautiful but still a little cold. We walked the beaches searching for seaglass.



Ultimate Looking Back

By Cousin Alan Smith

Cousins, I have compiled my *Looking Back* articles in a coil-bound, vinyl-covered booklet. It has 85 pages with many pictures in color. The cost is \$29 with shipping extra. I will have these books available at the 2023 Congress in Plymouth for advance prepaid orders only. Any profits will go to the TPWWS. Please send your email orders to me at das1842@icloud.com



Final Pilgrimage

Excerpts from the *Washington Post*

Thomas Lowe Hughes died January 2, 2023, age 97. Supremely knowledgeable about world history and U.S. foreign affairs, Hughes was a voice of reason on the Vietnam War. He came to Washington in 1955 as legislative counsel to Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota. Hughes then served Presidents Kennedy and

Johnson, 1961-1969, as Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research. From 1971-1991 he was president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

In 1965 Hughes helped compose a memo from Vice President Humphrey to President Johnson warning about the negative effects of the proposed intensification of the war in Vietnam. Johnson did not take the advice.

In person as well as in print, Hughes was known for his intelligence and charm. (A full biography of Hughes, by intellectual historian Bruce L.R. Smith is entitled *The Last Gentleman*.)

Hughes's friend Sanford Ungar, former director of the Voice of America, once wrote, "If there is anyone in Washington who can credibly lay claim to the moniker of "smartest person in the room"—any room, anytime—it is Tom Hughes. There is also a good chance, in most rooms he steps into, that he is the funniest, the best piano player, and has the clearest memory for historical detail."

A native of Mankato MN, Hughes was immensely proud of his small-town roots and of his Welsh and German forebears. A national debate champion in high school and college, Hughes in 1944, age 18, was elected national president of Student Federalists, working for a postwar union of democracies. In 1944 he spoke at both the Republican and Democratic conventions, and in 1945 attended the founding conference of the United Nation in San Francisco.

After graduating from Carleton College in 1947, Hughes was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford (Balliol). (Under President Nixon in 1969-1970, he was Deputy Chief of Mission in the American Embassy in London, a short but happy return to England.)

Following a Yale Law School degree and Air Force service, Hughes made the move to Capitol Hill first as legislative counsel to Rep. Chester Bowles (D-CT)

before joining Senator Humphrey's staff.

Hughes's first wife, journalist and designer Jean Hurlburt Reiman, died in 1993. In 1995 Hughes married Jane Casey Kuczynski, a former reporter for the Voice of America, who survives him.

David Lawrence Grinnell

passed quietly on Tuesday, April 18, 2023. He was born on September 17, 1943, to Clairmont and Mildred Grinnell of Newport, Rhode Island.



He spent most of his life on Aquidneck Island with his family and friends. He graduated from Newport High School in 1962 and in 1966 he received his BS in Business Finance at Bryant College. He was the CFO for Codac for many years. He moved to Cranston Rhode Island in 2003 and in 2009, when he retired, moved to Palm Springs California with his husband, Victor M. Ranieri.

He is survived by two children, his son, Nathan Grinnell of Georgia, two grandchildren, Ryder and Lila Grinnell also of Georgia, his daughter, Jodi Grinnell Brierly of Missouri, and his husband. He is also survived by a brother in Newport Rhode Island, Ronald Grinnell and his wife Penelope. Two other brothers, Alfred and Roger Grinnell, predeceased him.

David was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, The Mayflower Society, and many other genealogical groups. His rich ancestry has many kings and queens and even Charlemagne in it. He often held an office in several of these groups, either as treasurer or registrar. David's final arrangements were made by All California Cremation and his ashes were scattered in the Pacific Ocean. He will be missed by many family members, friends and professional organizations.

Editor's note: Dave was willing to prepare genealogical charts for anyone who asked. I did, and he sent me one showing me as his 10th cousin one time removed.



Welcome New Members

Nancy Decker George McNabb -- Resolved

Jesse Edward Borre -- Peregrine

Jenny Sue Hartsell Webb -- Resolved

Edgar Eugene Wilson -- Resolved

Letters to the Editor

Hello Cousin Michael,

My two daughters are in the process of joining the General Society and after approval will be joining the William White Society. Their names are Debra White and Max Laurie White. After we get them enrolled, I'll work on the grandchildren. Stay safe and stay well.

Cousin Everett

in finally snow free Maine (at least where I am) 😊

Hello Cousin Mike,

I recently found this on someone's FaceBook post. It said that in 1633-4 there was a smallpox epidemic. Many of the original Leiden Pilgrims died or lost family members. This is after only a few years of losing so many during the Pilgrims' first year in America.

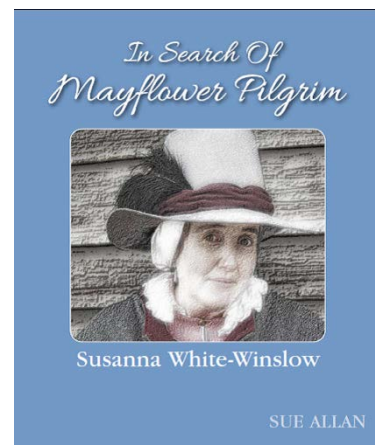
Cousin Linda Smith

Dear Cousin Michael,

Each time I think I have learned all that I can about my ancestors, then comes your excellent NEWS from the PWW Society and I find more ancestors (the great-grandparents of William White. WOW!) Thank you and thanks to Cousin Alan Smith for his pictures and writings. At 97 I doubt that I will get to go to Wisbech but it's nice to have the map and information to pass on to my heirs in case they should be able to go there. Does anyone know the name of the father of Thomasine Cross? Congratulations on the January Issue. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely, Cousin Marylen Jackson.

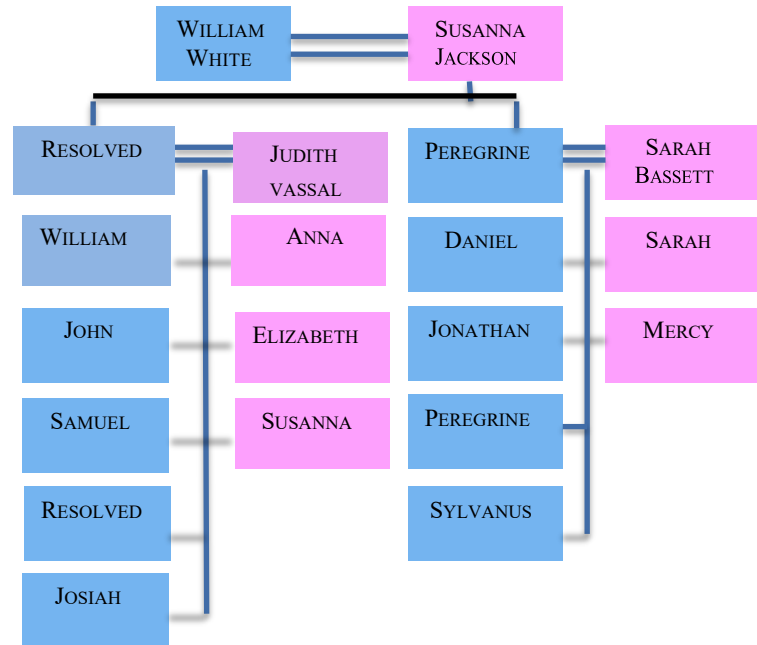
Your letter here – in the July newsletter!



www.mayflowermaid.com

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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