



Society News

THE PILGRIM WILLIAM WHITE SOCIETY

AN ENDORSED FAMILY SOCIETY
OF THE GENERAL SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

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NUMBER 1

Message from the Governor

Happy New Year to our White Family cousins and friends!

Your Society has made 2023 year-end donations to these organizations that further our goals as a family society:

GSMD
GSMD, designated for the Meeting House
Westport Historical Society
Plimoth Patuxet Museum
Pilgrim Hall Museum

Our family story is historic, emotional, and important, and these institutions serve to preserve and communicate our legacy as descendants of William and Susanna. You can be proud of your role in making these donations possible.

My photo for this issue features my “Susanna and Peregrine” doll, which I acquired on a visit to Plimoth Patuxet. We are the Pilgrim William White Society, but I never forget that our grandmother Susanna boarded the Mayflower in her 3rd trimester of pregnancy, keeping intact her family/our family.

With Warm Regards,

Ann



Governor Ann Wilkerson

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Three Whites

By Cousin *Everette White*

Happy New Year to you and your family. Here is a photo of three Whites, proud to be descendants of William and Susanna.



On the left is Everett White, retired custom home builder and a charter member of TPWWS. In the middle is Daughter Max Laurie White, a long time Professor of Art and Design at the University of Wisconsin and this year's recipient of the "Teacher of the Year award" at the University. On the right is Daughter Debra White, a senior analyst in Marketing at LL Bean here in Maine and mother of my two Grandchildren.

Both Daughters are in the process of joining State Societies and will eventually join TPWWS.

Exploring DNA Pays Off

By Cousin *Jenny Webb*

My name is Jenny Webb. I am a descendant of Resolved White. I learned about my ancestral lineage about 5 years ago after I made the choice at age 62 to explore my DNA.

One day in January 2019, I reached out to an Ancestry member named Steve Hillis; I had a question about the confusion caused by so many "Ryderus/Ryderius" given names accumulating in my tree. I also mentioned Mariah Isabell Rice Gillham, my maternal 2nd great grandmother. My great grandmother was Leona Gillham DeBoard.

Mr. Hillis responded to my inquiry by indicating that he was a third cousin to a woman named Donna Crosby who lived in Seattle Washington; after reading my inquiry, he had reached out to Donna. Mr. Hillis then relayed a message to me that he had received from Donna: "Leona Gillham DeBoard was my grandfather's sibling and BOY, do I have some great news for Jenny!!"

Thence, I got in touch with Donna who was already a member of GSMD; due to her research she had already discovered our connection to the *Mayflower* White family. Thankfully, GSMD permitted me to piggyback off Donna's documentation, basically only necessitating the proof of my descent from Leona, the sister of Donna's grandfather.

In March of 2019, my DNA results were posted and I shared DNA with Donna! I am so thankful that I reached out to Steve Hillis and was connected to Donna Crosby. [info about Donna and her talents can be found in the following TPWWS newsletter: 2019, Vol.2, #3; 2016, Vol 4, #2; 2013, Vol 1, #2; 2014, Vol 2, #4]. Besides discovering Donna, I also found another dear White-descended cousin, Heather DeBoard Haun.

Heather found me through a picture that I posted of our mutual 2nd great grandmother, Frances Leona Gillham. We learned that our grandparents were siblings. Before this journey, I knew nothing about either Donna or Heather; sharing information about our families and our heritage has been an experience to relish.

Currently, I am 66 years old; although retired, I am working part-time as a Speech-Language Pathologist. Enclosed is a somewhat outdated photo of me and my three sons, Adam, Zach, and Chevis, who are also descendants of the White line. Since I married for the first time at age 38, I am blessed with these youthful sons who are currently aged 26, 24, and 23, respectively.



I was so excited to learn and share with my family the newfound discovery that our ancestors were such an interesting part of American history; and, I am pleased to be a current member of the GSMD and TPWWS.

My Mayflower lineage: *William White and Susannah Jackson (my 10th great-grandparents) *Resolved White *Elizabeth White *Elizabeth Wheeler *Elijah Rice *Ebenezer Rice* *Joel Rice Sr. *Mariah Isabell Rice *Frances Leona Gillham *Carl DeBoard *LaMoyné DeBoard

*Jenny Hartsell (Webb)

Here is a 2015 photo of my mother,



LaMoyné, and six of her seven children (all descendants of the Mayflower Whites).

Looking Back

By Cousin Alan Smith

An Encore Tour of Carlton in Lindrick

While the Pettingers as holders of the Manor have been erased in contemporary histories (Allan, *Susanna White-Winslow*, p. 43), in the 16th century they were among the elite of the community. (Sue Allan conversations with me). Sue added that contemporary Pettinger's still living in Tickhill would be surprised by the prominence of their family in 16th century. The interior of the church is



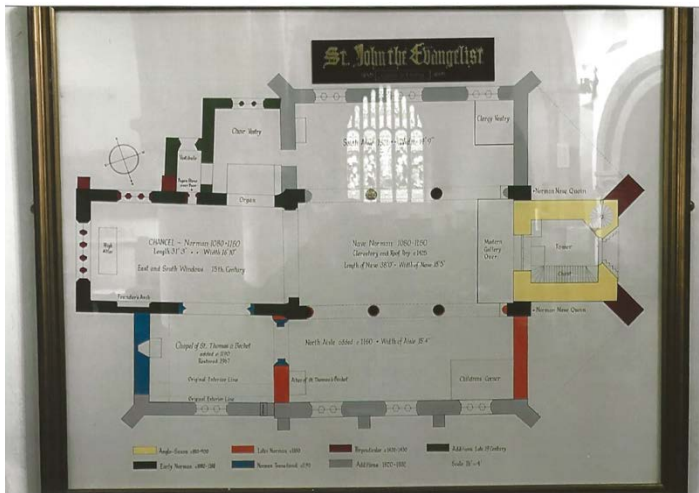
most historic of the churches that I visited. The church is extremely important architecturally. The bell tower is Anglo-

Saxon except for the top story. This is a view of St. John's Apse

This Norman font would have been used for Mary Pettinger Jackson's baptism on 11 September 1561 and her brother Edward's on 12 July 1563. Edward served as bailiff at Tickhill when Richard Jackson taught school there. Sue's research established their relation to their father John through various wills. (Allan, *Susanna White-Winslow*, p. 37)



This photo shows the various modifications to the church – Note the



reflections of the church in the photo.

According to Sue Allan, the Chapel of St. Mary, where the Pettingers were buried, was located on the north side of the church. Unfortunately, their crypt is now lost because the chapel was removed as were most other chapels and chantries throughout England. Chantries were chapels donated by prominent persons and maintained for the perpetual prayers for their souls and of their families. In particular, Henry VIII had all chapels to St. Thomas removed. The Becket Chapel here was established in 1190 only twenty years after his martyrdom. Incredibly, the Becket altar stone with its intact lead sealed relics (below) was found in 1938. The altar stone

had been buried upside down; now the altar has been restored in the church in the north aisle. The previous Becket Chapel houses the Books of Remembrance for those dying in the two World Wars and for those lived and died in service to the church.



Richard Pettinger had leased the Manor and lands from Gregory Fiennes, Lord Dacre. Later, John was bequeathed the lease, but a new owner fought John's ownership. There were suits and countersuits. The outcome is unknown. Yet (Allan, *Susanna White-Winslow*, p. 41)



Painting for the 400th Anniversary
Mary Pettinger and Susanna

Bad Day at Tea Rock

By J.L. Bell via Cousin Patrick White

[Patrick sent us link to [Boston 1775](#) blog article titled *Bad Day at Tea Rock*, by author J.L. Bell, which recounts the story of Benjamin White (1725–1783) and his tea-burning in Marshfield prior to the Revolutionary War. Benjamin is descended from Peregrine. Mr. Bell, a Revolutionary War historian, gave us permission to use his article.]

Marshfield was unusually split in the last years before the Revolution. Some influential men supported the Crown, and some opposed it. Control of town meetings went back and forth, and the faction that

was outvoted in the official meeting would gather and grumble about the results.

One documented leader of the local resistance was Nehemiah Thomas (1712–1782), both treasurer and clerk for the town as well as a deacon at the meetinghouse. Another was Benjamin White (1725–1783), who sometimes filled in as clerk and would also represent the town in the Massachusetts Provincial Congress.

In late 1773 Marshfield got into a tussle over tea. The official side of that dispute is documented in the record of a town meeting on 31 Jan 1774 that protested the Boston Tea Party, and then a protest against that protest, both published in the Boston newspapers. However, there appears to have been more direct action in December, not described in writing until decades late. The first mention of this incident I've found was in Marcia A. Thomas's *Memorials of Marshfield* (1854):

While [Nehemiah Thomas was] absent, on one of these occasions, the whigs of the vicinity, in the ardor of their patriotism, took from his house, contrary to his intention, a quantity which had been seized by them and deposited there. This was burnt on a rock, near the meetinghouse, with much éclat. This was known afterwards as Tea Rock.

In the 13 Sept 1869 *Springfield Republican*, I found this:

A few rods from the Marshfield post-office is "Tea-rock hill." During the revolutionary period all the tea was secreted in the entry of one of the colonists. While he was at Boston, attending the Continental Congress [sic], a few ardent Whigs, who did not believe in the soothing qualities of tea bearing

a British tax, seized and burned it upon the hill's summit.

L. Vernon Briggs's *History of Shipbuilding on North River* (1889) devoted a footnote to the memories of Isaac Thomas (1765–1859), including:

He saw the burning of the obnoxious tea on the height which yet bears its name, and saw the torch touched to the fire fated pile by that devoted Whig, Jeremiah Low.

Thomas and Samuel White's family history published in 1895 stated:

Benjamin White was one of the committee to collect the tea after it was voted not to use it, and it was stored in Nehemiah Thomas's house. He did not feel satisfied with this, it looked as if saved for future use. When the Whigs of the vicinity, in the ardor of their patriotism, seized this tea, carrying it into a field near by, where there was a large rock which was "flat on ye top," poured the tea thereon, when Benjamin White and his brother-in-law, Jeremiah Low, two staunch old Whigs, God bless them! applied the torch with



much rejoicing. This was known ever afterwards as "Tea Rock."

Thanksgiving Past, but Never Forgotten

By Helen Krispien

My teenage recollection of Thanksgiving Day dinner was setting up a folding table in our New York area apartment. Since there was no dishwasher, my mother set the table with Chinet paper plates, Thanksgiving paper table cover, napkins, and cups. Regular cutlery was in use, but no one seemed to mind since clean up consisted of rolling up the table cover and disposing of it.

There was no shortage of friends, family, and strangers who graced the table.

My mother said the blessing: “Bless this food to our use and us to thy service,” before the meal which began with half a grapefruit, a shrimp cocktail, Nana’s coleslaw, home-made cranberry jelly, rice pilaf made with home-made chicken broth, sweet potatoes with marshmallows, and of course the turkey with all the fixings. My job was to bring home dessert



Pilgrim Elizabeth in 1993

from the Horn and Hardart restaurant outlet store, a well-known New York cafeteria at the time with a supply of pies and cakes which were stacked on top of one another with a wooden handle attached so I could put them on the seat next to me on the bus ride home.

There was lots of laughter and camaraderie, and I am very thankful I can reflect on a Thanksgiving past with such fond memories. . . What remains in our hearts stays with us forever.

Peregrine’s Role in Space

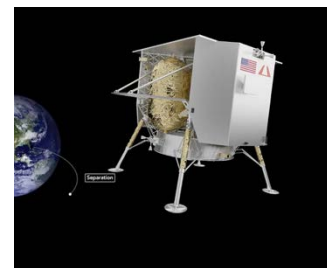
By Ann Wilkerson

Peregrine: 1) noun, the son of William and Susanna White who was born on the *Mayflower*

- 2) noun, a powerful falcon found on most continents, breeding chiefly on mountains and coastal cliffs
- 3) adjective, (archaic) coming from another country, foreign or outlandish
- 4) noun, the name of Astrobotic’s lunar lander, which is at this writing orbiting the moon.

Both Resolved and Peregrine are unusual names, and when I heard my ancestor Peregrine’s name on the news this week, it caught my attention.

The news was about the private space mission by Astrobotic, a Pittsburgh-based startup. After the spacecraft was launched on January 8, it developed issues due to a fuel leak and Peregrine will not now be able to land on the moon. Among the payloads on board are those of NASA, the German Aerospace Center, and the European Space Agency. Perhaps most of interest to non-scientists are the payloads containing



human remains and DNA. The remains include those of Gene Roddenberry and his wife and science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke. DNA samples from three United States

Presidents were also being carried, in the form of human hairs of George Washington, Dwight Eisenhower, and John F. Kennedy. According to Livescience.com, now that the lunar landing is cancelled, Peregrine will become a “floating tomb.”

The plan to put human remains on the moon was controversial. Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren appealed to NASA and the US Department of Transportation citing that the project would be “tantamount to desecration of this sacred space.” Maybe the spirits heard his plea.

Thankful Project

By Prarie Counce

Last fall, two of our Pilgrim William White Society Friend members and Texas Mayflower Junior members, Lena and Ben Danford, wrote thank you notes to their Fate, Texas police department. Their grandmother, Prarie Counce, Organizing and first Governor of The Pilgrim William White Society and former Texas Mayflower Society Governor, made pumpkin bread for them to deliver to the first responders just before Thanksgiving. This gesture of thankfulness has been a family Thanksgiving project for the past several years and has inspired a Texas Mayflower Juniors' "Thankful Project."



"...we chose to show appreciation to the Fate Police force. My brother, Benjamin, helped me write the thank you notes, and my grandmother, Prarie Counce, provided us with the Pumpkin Bread." -Lena

Lena said of the project, "I chose the police officers in my town because they risk their lives every day to keep people like me and my family safe. The police work at schools, malls, and on the streets to protect our community. Being a police officer is one of the most dangerous jobs to have. They put others before themselves, and show us they care, and we need to show them that

we are thankful for them being here to protect us."

A quote from one of the officers, Guerrica, says: "I joined so that I could have something different every day, and I know this sounds cliché, but I also wanted to help people."

Anna's Headstone

By Cousin Jene Seeley

The New England grave restorer was able to make it back to Concord and sent me wonderful photos of the Hayward's re-set & restored grave marker. She also alerted to me that they also have a foot marker, which having been to their grave several times, I never noticed (as the writing faces away from their headstone).

I'd like to thank everyone who contributed, please see attached photos.



Evie & Anna

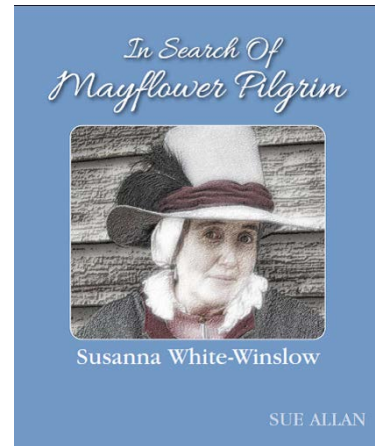
By Cousin Susie Wuest

Having learning about Anna's headstone from Jean's article in our newsletter, two weekends ago when we visited our son and his family in the Boston-area we drove over to Concord to visit the South Burying Ground. It was a cool but otherwise lovely autumn day (after 22 years in South

Florida) After several walks around we found Anna and so did her 10th Great Granddaughter-- our second grandchild Evelyn. The headstone was just the right



height for a 22-month-old. Plus, I just noticed that you can see the top of the foot marker on the righthand side of the photo, over her shoulder. I noticed other similar markers with minimal engraving but I didn't think or look beyond that initial glance. I am very happy to agree that it is a beautifully-cleaned headstone for our ancestor.



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- 2021-2026**
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- DEPUTY GOVERNOR
ELLA-MARIE OCHOWICZ
- RECORDING SECRETARY
BETSIE GRICAR
- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
PATRICK WHITE
- TREASURER
SUSIE WUEST
- HISTORIAN
BARBARA WILLIAMS
- CAPTAIN
CHARLES PROVOST
- ELDER
KENNETH WHITMORE, JR.

Welcome New Members



Letters to the Editor

Hello Cousin Mike.

Magnificent work, as always Mike. Thank you for your dedication!

Of course, Thanksgiving is always such an important holiday for me and mine, but this year was different!

First, I lost my beloved husband of 64 years quite unexpectedly, and that was the first Thanksgiving without him.

The second meaningful event was me deciding to watch a new film showing on the History Channel and it Mike, was the MOST MAGNIFICENT story of the *Mayflower* 'story' that I have ever seen, read, or studied. In fact, Nathaniel Philbrick was one of the 'commentators' which caused me to have even a greater interest in this film.

The name of the film is *Desperate Crossing, the Untold Story of the Mayflower* and produced by the 'Lone Wolf Documentary Group. I learned things that I

have never before 'learned' and then following up, found that these 'records' were valid. Of course, the dialog may not be word for word, BUT the story it told IS the best and probably the MOST accurate that I have studied. With Philbrick as one of the contributors and commentators gave it more credibility for me.

I was thinking that perhaps The History Channel MIGHT consider offering a copy to GSMD members at a reduced price, even though it is not that expensive if they cannot do that. Just wanted you to know about this OUTSTANDING history that IS greater on several topics than data I had found.

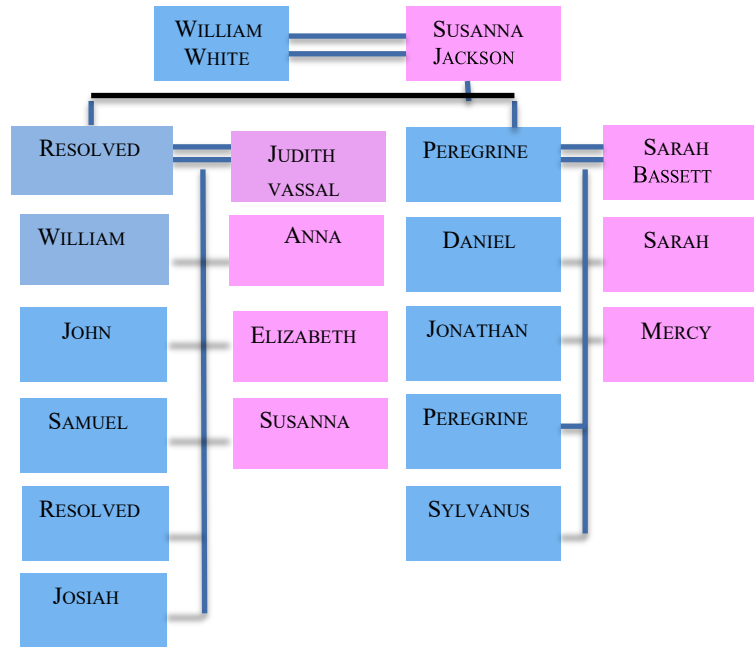
Cousin Donna Crosby,

Your letter here – in the April newsletter!

**2024 Dues are Due
Still \$15
Please make check payable
to TPWWS
Mail to
Susie Wuest, Treasurer
12283 Rockledge Circle
Boca Raton, FL 33428-4811**

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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