



**The PILGRIM WILLIAM WHITE  
SOCIETY NEWS  
Est. 2013**

**Vol. 4, No. 4 30 Oct 2016**

**Pat Nichols, Editor**

Dear Pilgrim William White Society Members,

The holidays are approaching and it is this time of the year The Pilgrim William White Society makes contributions in the form of membership or donation to The Westport Historical Society (for the Handy House, home of William White and his wife, Elizabeth Cadman White; William, being the great-grandson of Pilgrim William White) <http://wpthistory.org/handy-house/visit/>; Pilgrim Hall Museum (<http://pilgrimhallmuseum.org/>); and First Parish Meetinghouse. (<http://restorefirstparishplymouth.org/>) The donation to First Parish Meetinghouse is being made this year for the purpose of restoration to the stone façade, as the stained glass windows are finished and being stored until the façade restoration is finished.

It is also time to remember our younger Friend members and to send them Pilgrim-related books and material. We appreciate their membership in our Society, and we will continue to educate them about our Pilgrim ancestors. Please remember to do the same for your children and grandchildren as this is a way to perpetuate the stories and memory of our ancestors.

I'm looking forward to reading your articles on Thanksgiving! Thank you so much for responding to Pat's request. I thought it was an interesting and fun idea.

And finally, it is time to collect 2017 dues! The dues remain at \$15. Please make your check payable to "TPWWS" and mail it to our Treasurer, J. Benese Scherrer at 6211 Lumber River Ct, North Las Vegas, NV 89081 Thank you so very much for your continued support!

Very best wishes for happy, memory-making holidays,

*Prarie*



**Governor Prarie Counce**

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## Editor's Note

I asked our William White members to contribute memories associated with family Thanksgivings to our last issue for this calendar year and received some nice responses. The newsletter depends on all of you for content and I do appreciate the articles and pictures that I receive. I hope you will continue to support our society and our newsletter. I want to wish all of you a happy holiday season.

My favorite Thanksgiving tradition is making and eating my grandmother's corn bread stuffing. Maie, my name for her, was my William White line carrier, although she apparently did not know about the Mayflower connection. Her dressing goes inside the bird and I still make it that way. In spite of a cautious media, my turkey has never "exploded" in the oven, nor has anyone gotten sick from eating dressing cooked in the turkey. I never heard horror stories that this happened to my grandmother or her guests either.

The dressing is not healthy by today's standards as it contains a good amount of bacon and melted butter. It is flavored with onions (cooked in the bacon fat), sage, parsley, and salt and pepper. There is some torn pieces of white bread used to bind it all together. When the proportions are right, it is a glorious yellow color. Mom wrote out the recipe for me. Specific quantities of the various ingredients are lacking. I have tweaked it over the years, and my siblings, who never tasted Maie's, say mine is better than mom's. Of course they only say that now that mom is no longer with us. When I eat it, I do take a moment to thank my grandmother for passing this recipe down. It truly means Thanksgiving to me.

My one negative memory of a Thanksgiving meal was when I was invited to a friend's house to share their dinner. It was the first and only time I ate a white bread stuffing. It was such an anemic color, that I was turned off immediately. I remember it as having a strange texture and I was not impressed by the taste. I have never eaten a white bread stuffing since. It could be that her mother was not a good cook. Donna Crosby does prepare a white bread stuffing for her Thanksgiving dinners and it sounds delicious. Her story follows elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading all of the contributions; I did!

Cousin **Mary Meeks'** traditional Thanksgiving foods are turkey and dressing and pumpkin pie for dessert.



Cousin **Evelynne Layton** created a video from an old movie of a 1951 family Thanksgiving. The video shows the abundance of food at typical family celebrations. This video shows a seven year old Evelynn, her eleven year old brother, her parents born in 1919 and her grandparents who were born in 1897. What a great way to remember a special day. The link for you to enjoy it is:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/1zgw6pg1qa7v4be/My%20Movie%201.avi?dl=0>. Evelynne would like to add music to it at some point. Thanks Evelynne for sharing. You will need to install dropbox to view it. Evelynne's mother's favorite Thanksgiving meals included sweet potato-stuffed orange shells. She would scoop out the orange halves and mix the pulp with sweetened coconut - (to make ambrosia for dessert.) Then she would stuff the shells with mashed baked (or boiled) sweet potatoes mixed with crushed pineapple and cinnamon; top each with a marshmallow then brown them in the oven. Delicious! Evelynne serves this at her Thanksgiving meals too.

For several years our family (of four children and 12 grandchildren) would gather at Myrtle Beach, SC for the Thanksgiving holidays, and would walk to the K & K cafeteria - not far from our hotel - for our main meal. To add to the festivities, I would wear my long pilgrim dress, which I also usually wear it to our Compact Day Mayflower meeting in November.

## A PEET/Gilbert Thanksgiving

By Nancy Peet Gilbert

Nancy Gilbert on the steps of the Grange,  
Alto Michigan



1. For many years, when I was a child, we drove from Indiana and later Ohio to a small town in Michigan called Alto. It is outside Grand Rapids; both of my Mayflower ancestors lived in the general area (Hastings, 10 miles away, was their home). This small town had (and still has today), less than 200 people in the downtown area. My aunt Eleanor always cooked, my cousin and I sat the table. The family church was across the street and during Thanksgiving weekend, we always worshiped there.



Family church Alto Michigan



The pies are ready!



Nancy's grands in  
Thanksgiving  
aprons

2. There were always pumpkin pies and a Mincemeat pie - a favorite of some loved ones, but not me with my childhood palate. Sometimes my cousin Steve would make homemade ice cream, turning the manual ice cream maker, with his strong muscles. I would try a turn or two, but gave up easily and waited for the ice cream to be done
3. A favorite recipe made for as many years as I can remember is "mother's nutty green salad" - I still make it now with lime Jello, cream cheese, pineapple, and pecans. It is high in calories but very good. A favorite pie today is chocolate pecan pie which I make every year
4. My brother gave me a Mayflower puzzle. My oldest grand's work on it; first they find the puzzle pieces that have "Hopkins" and "White" on them as they know the importance of these Mayflower ancestors. They never have gotten it completed in totality but they like the challenge and it keeps little hands busy.



Cousin **James Fowler** sent the following sentiment and pictures of his Thanksgiving decorations.

**Thanksgiving**—A festival of family, food, fun and giving thanks for our good fortune!

For us, Thanksgiving has always meant being with as many family members as possible; having as many traditional dishes as the table and sideboard will hold; enjoying one another's company with conversation, games and perhaps a little football on the tv; and giving thanks for all that has been bestowed upon us. The fact that most of us around the table are descendants of the Mayflower Pilgrims is an added bonus and one that we cherish.



Cousin **Jane Hurt**, Kansas Society Governor, shows off her special Thanksgiving apron which was made for her by Kansas Historian, and fellow TPWWS member Lou Ann Youngblood. The entire ship is hand embroidered and includes Jane's name. It is too pretty to wear to cook in, I think.



Cousin **Mike Beard** of Fredericksburg, Virginia, sent pictures of their 2015 Thanksgiving celebration.

“Attached is a photo of us last year at Shield’s Colonial Tavern in Williamsburg, Virginia. I’m Michael Beard on the left, with my daughter Jennifer Wells, her husband Rick Wells, Matthew Wells, Megan Wells, my wife Dorothy Worsham Beard, and my mother Anne McCarthy Beard. Four generations enjoying a colonial Thanksgiving feast. Spent the day at Jamestowne Festival Park. I am also a member of the Jamestowne Society through Resolved. Pictured is Matthew with a Jamestowne guard. Matthew (12) and Megan (11) are junior members the Virginia Mayflower Society. Jennifer and Rick live in Roswell, Georgia and my mother lives in Williamsburg, Virginia. This was the first time we had a family Thanksgiving with the 4 generations.

I also attached a picture or our traditional Thanksgiving centerpiece — a Lazlo Ispanky Pilgrim Family Figurine. Its only lacking Peregrine!”

Regards,  
Mike Beard  
Fredericksburg, Virginia



## What Really Counts? Thanksgiving

By Barb Williams, Historian

"Young and foolish? Older and wiser?" As Thanksgiving approaches, I am a Senior Citizen!! BUT, not merely having such a title, I am also a Mayflower descendant!! What really counts?

Growing up in New England, Thanksgiving was always a day set aside for turkey, stuffing, cranberries, potatoes, root vegetables, rolls, and pumpkin pie. The best part was always the baking of the turkey and the wonderful smells in the house. Next best part was the turkey taken out of the oven by my father and letting it cool a bit. Carving was the supreme act! Dad and I would take snatches from the skin and enjoy the crispness. The rest of the turkey was alright, but the crisp skin was the delicacy!

The dinner was always shared with my grandparents. My grandmother was housebound, so plates were filled and taken across town to their home. It was a day of home, sweet home and family. Pilgrims and Mayflower never entered our minds. In high school, our rival football team played Portland, Maine High School each Thanksgiving Day. Being in the band, I would be there faithfully each year. If we won, a snake dance would be held on Congress Street. Thanksgiving was football, home for the fabulous dinner, and out to give the grandparents their meal. Pilgrims? Mayflower? Hadn't a clue about them.

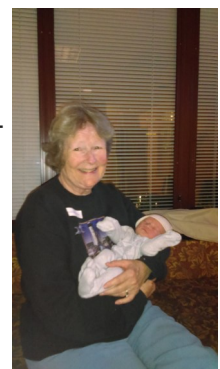
So on and so forth through college, marriage, raising of the first two children. THEN, at Schoolcraft College in Michigan, I took a class in genealogy encouraged by my husband. Little did I know then that this hobby would become a lifelong, enjoyable occupation! Of course, I knew my grandparents on both sides, but their parents?? Many letters were written to libraries, town records, cemeteries, etc. Over a year later, Pilgrims and Mayflower became part of my life and Thanksgiving!

In 1975, I became a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in the state of Washington. Over the years, Thanksgiving Day was always turkey, stuffing, cranberries, sweet or white potatoes, vegetables, rolls, pies. We always offered prayers of Thanksgiving, sometimes individually going around the table. Pilgrims and Mayflower also became topics of discussion. But, what really counts? I have given many presentations over the years about the first Thanksgiving, and the food. Why is food so important? What really counts?

As I vision Thanksgiving 2016 as a Senior Citizen and Pilgrim Descendant, my thoughts turn to our ancestors being thankful and setting aside a special day for the occasion. Food was not the primary focus. They just gathered what they had to feed all the guests that came that day. They had had a very sad year losing many of their people to death. God provided a great harvest, and they wanted to thank Him. My husband will have open heart surgery on 28 Oct. Food will not be important to me on Thanksgiving Day. The great importance will be thanks for all He has provided in medical technology. Look about you, I mean REALLY look about you! BE THANKFUL FIRST; PRAY WITH YOUR FAMILY; REMEMBER YOUR PILGRIM HERITAGE!

May each of you have a blessed day giving thanks for so many things. This is what really counts!

\*\*\*\*\*Barb is also thankful for the birth of a new grandson and William White descendant, Eric Navarro!





## Merging Family Traditions

By Governor **Prarie Counce**

The earliest memory of Thanksgiving I have is that my father would drive about 25 minutes to a nearby Air Force base and pick up two or three airmen to spend Thanksgiving Day with us. The Airmen would play games with my sister, Benese, and I, which was very exciting for two very young girls. My mother prepared roasted turkey, cornbread dressing, creamed potatoes, gravy, green beans, cranberry sauce (canned), with pumpkin pie for dessert.

The next memories are the times we spent Thanksgiving with cousins at my grandmother's house. We played games like Hide and Seek and Red Rover. The Thanksgiving meal always included a roasted turkey with mother and her sisters bringing a "pot-luck" of other dishes to go with the turkey. Cranberry sauce (canned) was always included.

Real change occurred when I got married. My husband and his family were from New Orleans, LA. The turkey they prepared was stuffed with oyster and French bread stuffing; and the standard accompaniments were rice, instead of potatoes, and green peas instead of green beans. Pecan pie was served instead of pumpkin pie. Canned cranberry sauce remained the common denominator.

My children were treated to both menus growing up as we visited both families. Now, when we have Thanksgiving at our house, we have a mix of our family with the families of in-laws; so we have a mix of menus. Since we discovered our Pilgrim ancestry, I make sure we talk about our Pilgrim ancestors; and I purchased a Fisher-Price play *Mayflower* with little Pilgrim characters that we call William and Susanna White; and the little sailor character is called Captain Christopher Jones. The grandchildren love playing with it. I even tried a recipe for cranberry sauce grinding real cranberries and oranges, but it was voted down, so we've gone back to canned cranberry sauce!

## Historian's Corner



We have reached the one hundred mark for memberships! Also, there are seventeen friends. All data is now stored in two notebooks, acid free. Several members still need to send their original applications for the files (copies only). I will be contacting those soon.

Your William White cousin,

*Barb Williams*

## Musings on My Emotional Genealogical Journey to 1620 by Ann Wilkerson

My father was the true genealogist of the family. He was born on a North Carolina tobacco farm in 1915 as the 12th of what would be 13 children. He loved history books and battlefields, and through scholarly research he solved the long-time family mystery of the Civil War disappearance of his great grandfather Aaron Brooks.

Daddy also had a butcher paper scroll of our Wilkerson family tree which consisted mainly of those 13 siblings and my dozens of cousins who had married and had their own children. It was a visual log of my grandparents' legacy to the future, but also on that family tree were several prior generations whose information was derived from courthouse records, tombstones, and family Bibles. There were O'Briants and Brookses and Whitefields, but the family name that captured my father's imagination was "Henry." "What if we are related to Patrick Henry?" he would ask. "I'd like to prove that!" Years passed, decades passed, and my father proved that we were not related to the Patrick Henry who is still quoted by schoolchildren today. He did prove, however, that we are descended from another Patriot, Robert Rosbrough Henry, a surgeon from New Jersey who served in Washington's Army. And that is when Daddy's questioning took on a different theme: Why did the Henry family who were educated and urbane and whose roots in the colonies went back to 1683 leave the North for the "rural backlands of Person County, North Carolina?" (my father's words)

My father died in 2013, leaving me the stacks of documents and files on our family history. When I retired in 2015, I subscribed to [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and began to chart the information on Daddy's family tree. For months, I dabbled in collecting census records and photos, and working backwards from myself, there was lots of information to see on recent generations of our family, the generations that Daddy had proved. As I went back further though, I became obsessed with finding an immigrant ancestor, one not born in North Carolina, but rather one who left the Old World seeking a better life in the New. One late night during Thanksgiving week last year, I hunched over my laptop and began roughing in the Henry line back as far as it might take me. Those "leaf" hints on Ancestry? I never saw so many, and now I understand that the closer you get to a historical figure, the more trees he or she is in, and the greater the repository of data on that person. My charting took me into several generations of Whites in New England. I was already fond of this family, as they were really well documented, but I was at 1700 and still didn't know my immigrant ancestor. Then - Bingo! A "Pilgrim Hat" icon appeared on a hint. I didn't want to believe it, as Ancestry users including me are prone to jump to conclusions, pursue falsehoods, and make bad assumptions. My family had never speculated about a Mayflower ancestor. What? "The Yankee in the Tree" was a Mayflower descendant? And there it was, our connection to William White, my immigrant ancestor who was not just any immigrant but a Pilgrim.

Achieving membership in GSMD then became my top project. I filed my preliminary lineage through Resolved and continued to research. I learned about Silver Books and which Illinois library kept them. I read Mayflower by Philbrick, viewed articles in Wikipedia, and watched the Mayflower history show on PBS. Then a small footnote in the Silver Books stopped me in my tracks. It said that the William White descended through Resolved in the 4th generation is not the William White who married Elizabeth Cadman. I thought how silly I had been to think that I was a Mayflower descendant. It was a fine example of how bad genealogical technique and assumptions could derail an ancestry project.

Weeks later I was still wondering why that Silver Book specifically cited Elizabeth Cadman. I returned to the library and looked her up in the Silver Book index. Another reference! And this time, it showed she was in the line from Peregrine - and I was still a Mayflower descendant! And then mourning, yes, mourning. I had become emotionally attached to Resolved and thought he was my direct ancestor. Only he wasn't. It was the little baby, the first one born after the Pilgrims were in the New World. The son who would never know his father.

I have bonded now with my true ancestor Peregrine, whose cradle I viewed on my first visit to Plymouth this year. While there are 35 million Mayflower descendants, I am descended from Peregrine whose very name means Pilgrim. He and his parents are my immigrant ancestors.

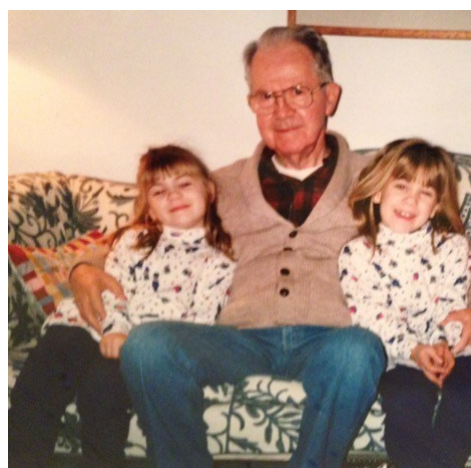
This Thanksgiving will be my first as a member of GSMD and the PWWS. While I thank God for His many blessings, I thank also my father who inspired my love of history which led me to the remarkable William White and his wife Susannah who faced the unknown to provide a better life for their sons.

\*\*\* Ann's pictures follow on the next page.





Ann aboard the Mayflower II



W R Wilkerson, line carrier, with Courtney and Lindsay Wodarski, Ann's daughters

Cousin **Donna Crosby** sent an entire book that she wrote entitled “**Our Family Remember Book**”. Due to space, I was not able to include the entire book. I thought her menu would interest everyone and shows how important food and lots of it is to us. Her recipe for her white dressing follows. It is very similar to this editor's cornbread stuffing, minus the eggs and subbing in bacon. Evelyn's video mentioned on page 2 also demonstrates our love of food on this holiday.

### **Thanksgiving Dinner Menu 2009**

Baked Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Savory Lemon Vegetables, Elegant Brussels Sprouts gratin, Dinner Rolls, Honey Butter, Tray of mussels, Oysters, sardines, Pumpkin Pie, Sweet Potato Pie

#### **Recipes** **Baked Turkey And Gravy**

About a week before Thanksgiving buy two loaves of white bread; spread on cookie sheets and set aside to dry out. I put mine on the dryer covered slightly with waxed paper to keep dust off the bread as it dries.

Purchase a large (18-20 lb.), fresh Turkey a day or so before Thanksgiving .On Thanksgiving morning, remove the neck and organs from the inside of the turkey from BOTH cavities and place the turkey in a large oval baking pan BREAST side UP then rub with melted butter; sprinkle with salt and pepper.



ly

Dressing can be stuffed into the cavities or you can bake the dressing separately to make sure that both turkey and dressing get cooked thoroughly. Follow baking directions provided with turkey as to cooking time per pound.

This gets tricky but the turkey needs to rest...and you need to make the gravy. Get two large men and have one hold the turkey while the other one pours the fluids into a very large pan. (Give the one holding the pan a set of hot pads)!

Using a gravy separator, pour the fluid into the cup to drain off most of the fat. Once you have all fat removed, reduce the fluid over high heat, to less than half. Add more water to produce the amount of gravy you want, then mix one TBS corn starch in cold water and pour into the fluid STIRRING constantly until thickened! Keep warm while you scramble to get the rest of the dinner ready to serve and eat!

### **Dressing Grandma's Way**

Passed down from at least great- great- great Grandma Merk to great- great Grandma Gillham to great Grandma Hillis to Grandma Crosby

1. You may use the neck and organs as the dressing fluids by covering all (except liver) in water and boil for 20 or so minutes until the meat is cooked...or open and heat a couple of cans of chicken broth!
2. Break bread into pieces into a very large bowl. Add:  
2 tsp salt, 2 tsp pepper, or more to your taste  
2 TBS ground sage  
1 TBS fresh parsley (or dried is ok)  
A pinch of thyme, then toss all together well.
3. Break two eggs over bread and toss again.
4. Melt one stick butter in a large skillet. Peel one large onion and dice, clean and chop four ribs of celery and add onion and celery to the melted butter and sauté for several minutes until onion is transparent and celery is a deeper green.
5. Now add the onion/celery mixture to the bread, and mix well.
6. Now, sprinkle the broth over the bread mixture and toss gently until well blended. Add more fluid to desired consistency. (Ed likes very moist dressing).
7. Either stuff the bird with the dressing or place into a large covered casserole.
8. Dressing needs to bake at least an hour at 350 degrees.



## LOOKING BACK by D Alan Smith

This column is a bit different from previous articles. I have had my DNA tested and am a part of several different groups from the Mayflower group to that rarest of groups- the Smith Family. So I come to this article with a degree of commitment to DNA research. Over the last two days I have read William Griffeth's memoir, *The Stranger in My Genes*. I thoroughly recommend the book for several reasons. First, it is actually readable and engaging with apologies to the NEGHS Register and their ilk which generally aren't. Second, it caused me to do some serious reflection of the implications of DNA studies and their potential impact on families and their understanding of their identity. In a similar case a baronet lost his title from a putative grandfather to a second cousin who requested a DNA sample for another reason. The deceased former baronet's father was ruled out as being the descendant. Without spoiling Griffeth's memoir, DNA can entangle as much as it explains. Both cases bring me back to the Question for us as the descendants of William and Susannah. Under English common law before the Pringle case above, a child claimed by the father was the descendant of the father, no ifs or ands or buts. Acceptance of the child by the parent should be our rule even in the face of DNA to the contrary. I am and will always be opposed to casting out anyone whose genes just don't fit anymore or likewise bringing someone in because of genes do fit. Father William White's parentage may never be known, but we know that he is still our ancestor through documentation who came either from England directly or by way of Leiden. Some experts are still arguing by which path he came. But by any route, he is still our ancestor who braved an uncertain future with Susannah and Resolved over barely charted seas. As we approach Compact Day in November, let's focus on the Main Thing. William, Susannah, Resolved and later Peregrine were willing to take unimagined risks so that they could worship God in their way. May we their descendants commit ourselves to following their example to the greater glory of God. May we embrace all of our family.

*Alan*



### Welcome Our New Members

Robert Louis Stevens

John Halberg Jones

Descended from Resolved

Louise Ann Smith Youngblood

Ann Warren Wilkerson

James David Riddell

Descended from Peregrine

Cousin **David Grinell** created a fun diversion for us. The first Word Search puzzle appears in this newsletter and another will appear in the next issue. Thanks David! The word list follows on page 13.

## Pilgrim William WHITE

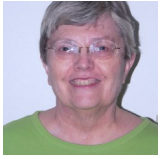
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Please send articles to the editor at her email or postal address. Pictures should be in jpeg format. People and places should be identified so that a caption can accompany the photo. Articles are due on the first of the month of publication, but are gladly accepted at other times.

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