
JUNIOR PA MAYFLOWER

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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WILLIAM WHITE, MAYFLOWER PASSENGER

Little is known about Pilgrim William White” is a usual beginning for any article about this 1620 *Mayflower* passenger. One of the five major sources, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants Volume 13 of their series *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations* begins with those very words. Of the four biographical pages only two paragraphs are actually about Pilgrim William, the remainder are devoted to his wife Susanna who, following White’s death during the first winter, in May 1621 married Edward Winslow. This marriage was the first to take place in Plymouth Colony.

Governor Bradford in his history, *Of Plymouth Plantation*, states in his list of passengers: “Mr. William White and Susanna his wife and one son called Resolved, and one born a-shipboard [in Provincetown Harbor] called Peregrine [means “pilgrim”], and two servants named William Holbeck and Edward Thompson.” In his “increase” or growth of the Plantation list written some thirty years after their arrival, Governor Bradford states “Mr. White and his two servants died soon after their landing. His wife married with Mr. Winslow, as is before noted. His two sons are married and Resolved hath five children, Peregrine two, all living. So their increase are seven.” Nowhere else in his history is White mentioned and he is not mentioned as one taking part in the exploration for a settlement site in the 1622 journal of the first year, *Mourt’s Relation*, written by Winslow and Bradford. He is, however, said to have been a signer of the Mayflower Compact before the passengers first went ashore.

Apparently there were at least two William Whites in Leiden and the Pilgrim William was one of them. The name William White often appears in the Leiden, Holland, records as a witness up through 1620 and later. Dr. Jeremy D. Bangs believes that both of Pilgrim White’s servants were from Leiden, where many of the *Mayflower* passengers had lived for over a decade. One of the William Whites (spelled Hoyt) was identified as Pilgrim Samuel Fuller’s brother-in-law. Dr. Bangs, on a map in his 2009 *Strangers and Pilgrims*, identifies the site of Pilgrim White’s Leiden home. One of the thirteen wool combers

in Leiden was perhaps this William White. Caleb Johnson, in his 2006 *The Mayflower and Her Passengers*, believes that Pilgrim William White was neither of the Leiden Whites, but rather a London Merchant.

In 1623, because White had been a passenger, he was granted five acres of land behind the fort to a little pond.

Although William and Susanna White only had the two children, sons Resolved and Peregrine, there were actually 14 grandchildren. There is no known will or estate inventory for William White. However, an important artifact survives of William and Susanna: Son Peregrine’s cradle that may be seen at Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth, MA.

William White Sources:

Anderson, Robert Charles, *The Pilgrim Migration - Immigrants to Plymouth Colony 1620-1633*, Boston: New Eng



PEREGRINE WHITE CRADLE CIRCA 1620

This hooded cradle in the Pilgrim Hall Collection is attributed to Peregrine White and described as being of willow wicker, typical of those made in Holland. It has oak rockers and a maple strut. “Similar cradles can be seen in period paintings by Vermeer and other Dutch artists. Willow osiers, or shoots, that form the cradle were woven into a checker pattern. The osiers range in size from 1/4" on the sides to 3/4" on the floor.”

Courtesy Pilgrim Hall Museum Collection

Continued on page 2

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Coles' Hill, Plymouth, MA, Sarcophagus with list of deaths the first year. William White is at left, 3rd name from bottom. Peggy Baker photo

land Historic Genealogical Society, 2004
Bangs, Jeremy Dupertuis. *Strangers and Pilgrims, Travellers and Sojourners: Leiden and the Foundations of Plymouth Plantation*. Plymouth: The General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2009
Johnson, Caleb H., *The Mayflower and Her Passengers*. Xlibris Corporation, 2006
Heath, Dwight B., Editor, *Mourt's Relation: A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth*. Bedford, MA: Applewood Books, 1963
Morison, Samuel Eliot, Editor, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*.

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1959

Wakefield, Robert S., editor, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations: Descendants of the Pilgrims Who Landed at Plymouth, Mass., December 1620, Volume Thirteen, Third Edition, Family of William White*. Plymouth: The General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2006

If you are a descendant are you through Resolved or Peregrine? Apparently there currently is no William White family society. Perhaps you would like to help form one.

FACEBOOK FOR ALL JUNIOR MEMBERS

The General Society Junior Chairperson, who is also an SMDPA member, has created a Facebook page for all Junior Members. The name of the group is "Mayflower Descendants Junior Members." She would like all Junior members to participate in the discussion group and to hear from other Junior members. She also urges Junior members to attend our Susquehanna and Western Colony meetings with their sponsors to spark interest and participation. Who is a Junior member? A Junior member is someone who has joined our state Mayflower society while under the age of 18 but has not completed and submitted an application proving descent from a Pilgrim. Those who are Junior members may remain in that status until their 25th birthday. Although members who joined as Life members before they became 18 are not technically Junior members, they are encouraged to take part with the Junior group.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT PILGRIM HALL?

To quote from Pilgrim Hall's website www.PilgrimHall.org, "PILGRIM HALL, built in 1824, is a gallery museum in the center of historic Plymouth, Massachusetts. The nation's oldest continuously-operating public museum, Pilgrim Hall houses an unmatched collection of Pilgrim possessions. Among its irreplaceable treasures are William Bradford's Bible, Myles Standish's sword, the only portrait of a Pilgrim (Edward Winslow) painted from life, the cradle of New England's first-born, Peregrine White [shown on page 1], the great chair of William Brewster, and the earliest sampler made in America (below), embroidered by the teenage daughter of Myles Standish." If you visit Plymouth, you should plan to spend some time here.



In its gift shop Pilgrim Hall also has four videos that you may find worth adding to your collection: "One Small Candle" that follows the Pilgrims from England to Plymouth, MA; "The Mayflower" produced by The History Channel that tells of their journey; "Desperate Crossing: The Untold Story of the Mayflower" that features actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company and members of the Native American Massachusetts Wampanoag tribe telling the story of the journey and their first year; and "The Bradford Heritage" with Gov. Bradford's descendant Allyn Bradford as the Governor reading from the Governor's eye witness account that has been published as *Of Plymouth Plantation*. All *Mayflower* descendants should own a copy of the book which is still in print and available from Pilgrim Hall, the Plimoth Plantation, and other sources. Pilgrim Hall gift shop can be reached by calling 508-746-1620 extension 1.

A special program, *Artifacts from the Myles Standish House*, will be held at the Museum October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 10 am to 4 pm. You will have a close look at artifacts from the 1856 excavation of the Pilgrim Myles Standish home in Duxbury.

If you are interested in archaeological excavations, there is the annual dig at the site of the Pilgrim John Howland house in Rocky Nook near Duxbury. Visit http://www.pilgrimjohnhowlandsociety.org/rocky_nook.shtml for further information. Above photos courtesy of Pilgrim Hall.



Any comments or suggested topics for the feature articles of this newsletter? Perhaps an article for consideration? If so, please contact Stacy B. C. Wood, Jr., Editor, "JR PA Mayflower," 1530 South Juniper Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147-6218 or by e-mail at sbcwjr@comcast.net.

WILLIAM WHITE 16 X 20 WORDSEARCH

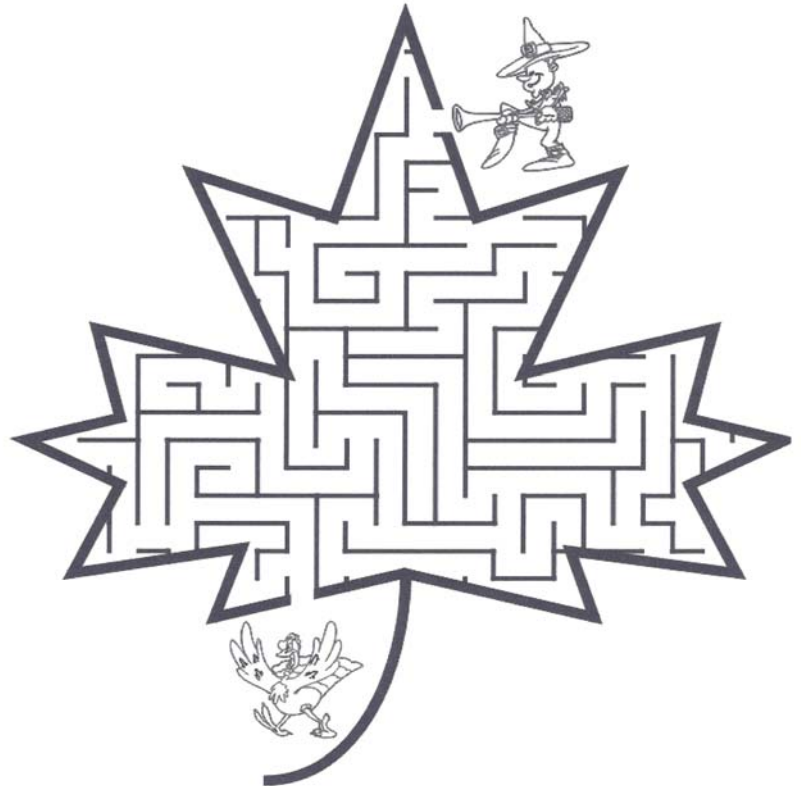
The following 49 words are found in the lead article about William White: ACRES, ARTIFACT, ARTISTS, ATTRIBUTED, BANGS, BIOGRAPHICAL, BRADFORD, CHECKER, CHILDREN, COMBERS, COMPACT, CRADLE, DESCENDANTS, DEVOTED, EDWARD, EXPLORATION, FIVE, FORT, GENERATIONS, GOVERNOR, HATH, HOLBECK, INCREASE, INVENTORY, LANDING, LEIDEN, LONDON, MAPLE, MARRIAGE, MAYFLOWER, MERCHANT, OSIERS, PASSENGER, PATTERN, PEREGRINE, PILGRIM, PLANTATION, POND, PROVINCETOWN, RELATION, RESOLVED, SERVANTS, SETTLEMENT, SEVEN, STRANGERS, SASSANNA, THOMPSON, WOOL, WOVEN. The unused letters answer the question: Which is the earliest Pilgrim family association? See answer

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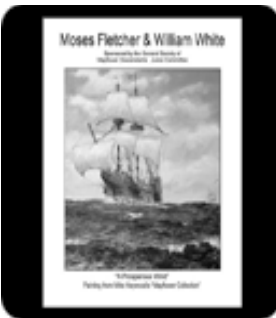
FACTOID

Only 21 of our approximately 840 current members (2 1/2%) have used descent from William White to join our organization. None of our 31 Junior members have claimed White. None have filed William White supplemental papers.

Help the pilgrim find the wild turkey for his thanksgiving feast. The pilgrim needs to find his way through this fall leaf maze



PILGRIM BOOKLET SERIES



The General Society has created a series of booklets for each Pilgrim. Our own Deb Miller, General Society Juniors Chair, was a major contributor and they may be ordered at <http://www.themayflowersociety.com/>

[shop?page=shop.browse&category_id=12](http://www.themayflowersociety.com/shop?page=shop.browse&category_id=12). The William White booklet also contains the story of Moses Fletcher, another Pilgrim who did not survive the first winter.

WILLIAM WHITE WORDSEARCH ANSWER: Unused letters from this issue's 16 x 20 Wordsearch: Pilgrim John Howland Society. This society was founded in 1897, the same year that the General Society was founded. Our PA society was founded in 1896 and was the fourth state society.

A PAGE TO COLOR

A FATHER SHOWS HIS YOUNG SON HOW TO HOLD A MUSKET. IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT FOR PILGRIM BOYS TO LEARN TO SHOOT. WHEN THEY WERE OLDER, THE BOYS WOULD GO HUNTING IN THE WOODS. IF AN ENEMY ATTACKED THE VILLAGE, THEY WOULD HELP DEFEND IT.

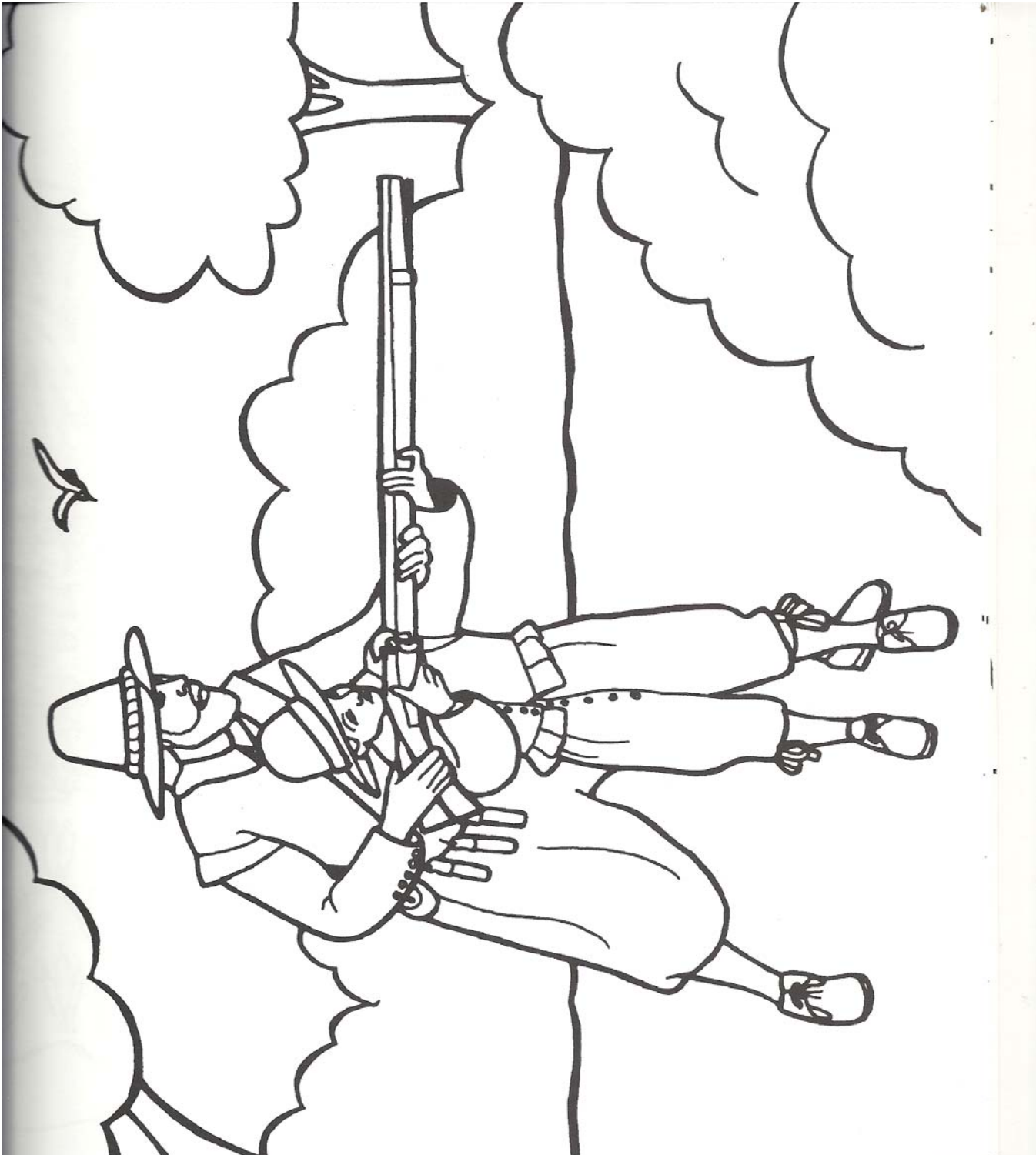


Image and text from *Plymouth Plantation Coloring Book*. Drawings by Die Modlin Hoxie. text by Carolyn Freeman Travers. Courtesy of *Plymouth Plantation*.