

WILLIAM WHITE OF THE *MAYFLOWER*

Among those on board the ship *Mayflower* when it finally arrived in New England in November, 1620 was Pilgrim William White. William has been a difficult person to research, mainly because of the commonness of his name in England. However, we do know a few things with relative certainty. William was born by 1590. He married Susannah (----) about 1615.

Evidence of the William White family coming to the *Mayflower* from England and not Holland comes from William Bradford's passenger list which has "Mr. William White" in his section for London merchants along with Mr. Christopher Martin, Mr. William Mullins, Mr. Stephen Hopkins, Mr. Richard Warren, and John Billington. William White came on board the *Mayflower* with his pregnant wife Susanna, son Resolved (then about five years in age), and two servants. Susanna gave birth to their son Peregrine on board the *Mayflower* several weeks after White signed the Mayflower Compact. William died that first winter during the unidentified epidemic on 21 February 1621. With the death of her husband, Susanna White, with newborn Peregrine and five-year-old Resolved, became the only surviving widow out of the many families who perished that winter.

In May 1621, Susanna White became the first Plymouth colony bride, marrying Edward Winslow, a fellow *Mayflower* passenger whose wife had perished on March 24, 1621. At least five children were born to Edward Winslow and his wife Susanna. The death date of Susanna is uncertain – sometime between 1654 and 1675. She was buried in Winslow Cemetery in Marshfield where her sons Resolved and Peregrine White and their wives were buried. Edward Winslow died on a British military expedition in the Caribbean in 1655 and was buried at sea.

Children of William and Susannah (----) White:

1. Resolved
2. Peregrine

Which child of Pilgrim William White is your Mayflower ancestor?

Robert Charles Anderson, *The Pilgrim Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth Colony 1620-1633*, (2004)

Eugene Aubrey Stratton, *Plymouth Colony: Its History & People 1620-1691*, (1986)

Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs, *Strangers and Pilgrims, Travellers and Sojourners: Leiden and the Foundation of Plymouth Plantation*, (2009)

Nathaniel Philbrick, *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War*, (2006)