



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 002

Name: White, Susanna

Dates: (-bet. 18 Dec 1645 & 2 Jul 1675)

Colonial Society: MA

Date added to ROA: before 2009

Service: Mayflower Passenger, 1620

Authority: Sherman, R.W. and R.M., orig. compiled by, re-edited by Robert S. Wakefield, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations*, Volume Thirteen, 3rd edition, Family of William White (General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2006), 5.

Biography:

Susanna White's origins were just discovered in 2017, after more than a century of trying to identify her correctly. The claim *that* she was Susanna Tilley has been disproven.

Susanna was the daughter of Richard and Mary (Pettinger) Jackson and was born about 1592 in Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, England. Richard was very involved in the Brownism movement (named after founder Robert Browne) another separatist movement advocating to purify the Church of England from its Catholic remnants. For his involvement, an arrest warrant was issued on December 7, 1607 prompting a move to Amsterdam to join Henry Ainsworth's congregation. Susanna met and married William White, around 1614, while in Amsterdam where they joined the Ainsworth congregation. They chose to sail on the *Mayflower*, while most of their fellow congregants remained in Amsterdam. It is believed this was due to the fact that their niece Dorothy (May), wife of William Bradford, also chose to sail.

Susanna came on the *Mayflower* with husband William White and son Resolved. She was pregnant, and gave birth to son Peregrine while the *Mayflower* was still anchored off the tip of Cape Cod sometime during the last three days of November 1620. Peregrine is the Latin form of the word "Pilgrim". Susanna's husband William died the first winter at Plymouth on February 21, 1620/1.

She remarried a few months later to fellow *Mayflower* passenger Edward Winslow (later Governor) on May 12, 1621. Their marriage was the first to take place in Plymouth. Susanna was one of only four adult women to have survived to see the "First Thanksgiving" at Plymouth that autumn. Susanna and Edward had five children.



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In 1651, Edward Winslow had a portrait done of himself in London for his wife. In the portrait, he is holding a letter. Careful examination of this letter reveals the last lines which are actually legible to read "your loving wife, Susanna".

Susanna died sometime after 1654, when she is mentioned in her husband's will.