



## Our White Ancestors

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### White Context

Our Ancestors Whites came from Essex County in England arriving in America about 1638. Ancestors of Robert White included 7 American Presidents, Millard Fillmore, US Grant, Stephen Grover Cleveland, Gerald Ford, John Adams and John Quincy Adams.

1. Robert White b. 17 May 1560 Messing, Shalford, Essex, England, m. Bridget Allgar  
24 Jun 1585, d. 17 Jun 1617 Messing, Essex, England

#### **1.Robert White 1560-1617 Bridget Allgar 1561-1605**

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/White-255>

Robert White was born May 17, 1560 at Messing, Shalford, Essex England. He married Bridget Allgar June 24 1585 Shalford, Essex, England. Bridget was baptized at Shalford on 11 March 1562, the daughter of William Allgar. A record of Bridget's death has not been discovered. She is thought to have been the the woman referred to in the 9 June 1623 will of Nathaniel White of Feering, Essex, England. He was buried 17 June 1617 in Messing, Essex, England

They had the following children<sup>1</sup>,

- i. Sarah White b. 8 Mar 1585 Shalford, Essex, England, baptized on 6 March 1585/6 in Shalford, called eldest daughter in the will of her father. She married James Bowtell of "Little Saling." Boutwell d. 1623
- ii. Daniel White b. 30 Apr 1587 Shalford, Essex, England
- iii. Nathaniel White 1582 Shalford, Essex, England, baptized on the "Laste date of April" 1587 in Shalford.
- iv. Mary White b. 24 Aug 1590 Shalford Essex England, baptized on 24 August 1590 in Shalford, m. Joseph Loomis of Braintree. 30 Jun 1614  
d. 23 Aug 1652 Windsor, Hartford County, Connecticut
- v. Bridget White baptized on 18 August 1594 in Shalford, m. John Christmas.
- vi. Elizabeth White, baptized "fyfte March, 1591/2" in Shalford, m William "Godwyn of Bocking."
2. vii. Anna White b. 13 Jul 1600 Shalford Essex, England, m. John Porter 18 Oct 1620 d. 11 May 1647 Windsor, Hartford, Connecticut
- viii. John White b. ? Shalford, Essex, England, m. Mary Levit 26 Dec 1622, d. 23 Jan 1683/84

Robert White lived for considerable time in the parish of Shalford and was quite wealthy. Sometime shortly before his death, he removed to Messing, Essex where some of his children had moved to. In his will, he gave to support the poor of Messing, and to Rev. Richard Rogers, a non-conformist minister, and Rev. Bartholomew Scrivener an established church minister.

The primary heir and executor of the will of Robert White was his son Daniel. Since there are no gaps in the baptisms of children by Bridget Algar to allow for an adult son in 1617, it seems probable that Robert White had an unknown first wife who was the mother Daniel.

Will of "Robert White of Messinge ... yeoman," was dated 27 May 1617

I Robert White of Messinge in the countye of Essex Yeoman  
unto the poore people of Messinge

Mr. Richard Rogers preachere of gods word

my eldest daughter Sarah, the wife of James Boutell of little Salinge

her son James under age 16

my daughter Marie the wife of Joseph Lumis of Branetree

my daughter Elizabeth the wife of Willm Goddinge of Bockinge

my daughter Bridgett White (unmarried)

my daughter Anna White (unmarried)

my son Nathaniel White

my son John White (under age 21, unmarried)

sonnes in law Joseph Lumys Willm Goodinge supvisors of this my last will

my wife Bridget White and my son Daniel White executors

In the name of God Amen, May the seaven and twentyeth in the fifteenth yeare of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lord James by the grace of God King of England France and Ireland defender of the faith etc. and of Scotland the fiftyeth. In the year of our Lord god 1617 I Robert White of Messinge in the countye of Essex Yeoman, being of good and p'fect remembrance, doe make this my last will and testament, in manner and forme followinge. Imprimis. I commend my soule unto the hands of God almighty my most faythfull creator redemer and sanctifier and my bodie to be buried in the parish church or church yard of Messinge, at the discretion of mine executors.

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<sup>1</sup> Descendant, The Children of Robert White of Messing, Co. Essex, England, who settled in Hartford and Windsor, NHGR Vol 22:55(1901) Pages 22-31

I give and bequath unto the poore people of Messinge fortye shillings of lawful money of England, to be distributed anongst them, at ye discretion of mine executors and the minister of Messinge, within one month next after my departure from this natural life.

I give and bequeath unto Mr. Richard Rogers preachers of gods word at Wethersfield in Essex aforesaid; and to Bartholomew Scrivener minister of the church of god in Messinge aforesaid to each of them the severall summe of forty shillings of the lawful monie to be payed unto them within two months next after my departure. I give and bequeth unto my eldest daughter Sarah, the wife of James Boutell of little Salinge, the summe of fifteene pounds of lawfull mony of England, to be payed within fower years next after my departure. Item I give and bequeath unto Jeamas Bowtell the younger, sone of my said daughter Sarah Boutell, the summe of five pound of good and lawfull money of England, to be payed unto him when he shall come to ye sixteenth year of his age.

I give and bequeath unto my daughter Marie the wife of Joseph Lumis of Branetree, one pewter platter.

I give and bequeath unto my daughter Elizabeth the wife of Willm Goddinge of Bockinge the summe of fortye marks of like lawfull monye within one yeare next after my departure, to be paid unto hir.

I give and bequeath unto my daughter Bridgett White the sum of one hundred marks of like lawfull moneye, to be payd unto hir upon the day of hir marriage, provided that she my said daughter Bridgett shall not bestow hir self in marriage without the approbation and consent of my two sonnes in law Joseph Lummys and William Goodinge formerly mentioned and of my wife Bridgett White or the consent of two of them whereof my wife to be one of the twaine. But if it happen that shee marrye without the consent aforesaid then I give hir only the summe of thirtye pounds of like lawfull monie.

I give and bequeath unto my daughter Anna White the summe of one hundred marks of like lawfull mony, to be paid hir upon ye day of hir marriage, if soe be she shall bestow hir selfe in marriage, accordinge to the likinge and consent of my two forenamed sonnes in law, and my wife as is aforesaid. But if it soe fall out, as that she my said daughter Anna shall marrye without the consent and approbation formerly mentioned then I give and bequeath hir only the summe of thirty marks of like lawfull monie.

I give and bequeath unto my sonne Nathaniel White the summe of fortie pounds of like lawfull monye, where of my will is that twenty pounds shall be paid within one year next after my departure, and the other twentye pounds to be paid unto him within two years next after my departure oute of this natural life.

Item I give and bequeath unto my sonne John White the summe of two hundredth pounds of like lawfull monie to be paid him when he shall come to ye years of one and twentye of his age; yett provoded that my said sonne John shall not bestow himself in marriage with the approbation and consent of my aforesaid two sonnes in law, Joseph Lummys and William Goodinge, and my wife his mother. And yf it soe fall oute that this my sonne John shall mathch him selfe contrarye to the good liking and consent aforesaid, then I give and bequeath unto him onely as his full portion the summe of one hundred pounds of like lawfull monye.

Item my mind and will is that yf any of my aforesaid children that are unmarried shall depte this naturall life before the tymes appointed for the paymt of their portions; or yf any of them shall marrye contrarye to the consent and approbation mentioned then such summe or summes (as shall remaine and accrew, eyther by their death or disobeydience), shall be equally devided amongste the rest of my children, whither married or unmarried, pte and parte like.

I give and bequeath unto my said son John White the joyned standinge bedstead which is in the parlour, with the featherbed flock-bed bolster coveringe with other furneyture thereunto belonging; also the presse cupbourd the cupbourd table and newest chest, all which are in the said parloure to be delivered to him after the death of said wife Bridgett White, or thereof the summe of twentye marks of like lawfull monye.

I constitute and ordaine my aforesaid sonnes in law Joseph Lumys Willm Goodinge supervisors of this my last will and testment and doe give unto each of them the severall summes of forty shillings of like lawfull mony; towards their charge and pains in seeinge this my last will executed according to my minde.

I give and bequeath unto Ralph Bett the younger my kinsman and servant the summe of five pounds of like lawfull monye to be payed unto him within one yeare next after my departure.  
Item all the rest of my goods unbequeathed I give and bequeath unto my wife Bridgett White; and my sonne Daniel White whome I constitute and ordayne joynte executors of this my last will and testament, hoping they will faithfullye execute this my will accordinge to the trust reposed in them. In witness whereof I have hereunto sett myne hand and seale the day and year first mentioned  
In presence of us  
John Christmas ye elders marke  
Willm Levett  
Probatu fuit Testamtu apud Kelvedon vicesimo Die mensis Junii 1617.

## 2. Anna White 1600- 1647 John Porter 1594 – 1648

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/White-437>

Anna White, daughter of Robert White and Bridget Allgar, was born 13 Jul 1600 in Shalford Essex, England. She married John Porter 18 Oct 1620 in Messing, Essex, England. She died 11 May 1647 in Windsor, Hartford, Connecticut.

They had the following children:

- i. Anna White b. 22 Sep 1621 Messing, Essex County, England, m. William Gaylord 24 Feb 1644 Connecticut, d. 21 Jul 1653 Windsor, Hartford County, Connecticut
3. ii. John Porter b. 09 Feb 1621/22 at Felsted, Essex, England, m. Mary Stanley 1650, d. 02 Aug 1688 Windsor, Hartford, CT
- iii. Samuel Porter b. 26 May 1632 Felsted, Essex, England, d. 16 Jul 1632 Felsted, Essex, England
- iv. Rose Porter b. 24 Jun 1633 d. 12 May 1649 Windsor, Connecticut, age 14
- v. Nathaniel Porter b.19 Jul 1640 Windsor, Connecticut, m. Hannah Groves 1667, d. 14 Jan 1679 Stratford, Fairfield County, Connecticut
- vi. Hanna Porter b. 4 Sep 1642 Windsor, Connecticut, m. John Coleman May 29 1663 at Windsor, Connecticut, d. 19 or 20 Sep 1677, She was slain by Indians at her home at Hatfield<sup>2</sup>

## Appendices

### Abbreviations

abt about	aft. After	b. born	Bef. Before	Bp baptism	bur buried
d. died	m. married				

### Calendar Old Style-New Style, Julian & Georgian<sup>3</sup>

The old calendar used up to about 1752 in Protestant countries was the Julian Calendar based on 365.25 days. In 1582 Great Britain and empire switched to the Julian Calendar and since the actual year is 365.2422 days long the switch over caused a 11 day out of synch problem. To solve this problem, it was proclaimed that September 2 would be followed by September 14. As well the old-style calendar the calendar year began on Lady Day 25<sup>th</sup> of March i.e. the year ran from 25 March to 24 March. Hence January 24, 1712 old-style would-be January 24, 1713 new style. The correct way to describe a date in the “overlap” period from January 1 to March 24 is to state the Old/New Style as 1712 /1713 which means

<sup>2</sup> See sources at Find-a-grave for hannah Porter Coleman at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/35617791/hannah-coleman>

<sup>3</sup> Greenwood, Val D. The Researcher’s Guide to American Genealogy, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co Inc 2000

“January 24, 1712 old style is what we call January 24, 1713”

Also, since the calendar began in March the months if numbered are as follows

March 1, April 2, May 3, June 4, July 5, August 6 , September 7, October 8, November 9, December 10  
January 11, February 12

### **List of Freeman<sup>4</sup>**

The status of freeman was primarily of political importance, for it gave one the right to vote for colony officers. In some colonies, though, freeman was tied to church membership, and so the meaning was somewhat different. Massachusetts Bay and New Haven, the most Puritan of the Puritan colonies, made church membership a prerequisite for foremanship, while the rest of the New England colonies did not.

List of freemen may be used for a number of purposes beyond proving biographical information about an immigrant. Like tax lists later, a list of freeman provides basic information about the presence or absence of a person on a given date. And, as noted above, freemanship in Massachusetts Bay and New Haven supplies information about church membership, from which we can learn not just whether this individual was a church member at a given time; we can also reconstruct some of the history of churches whose records have been lost by studying the lists over a period of years.

### **Selectmen and Board of Selectman**

In most New England towns, the adult voting population gathered annually in a town meeting to act as the local legislature, approving budgets and laws. Day-to-day operations were originally left to individual oversight, but when towns became too large for individuals to handle such work loads, they would elect an executive board of, literally, select(ed) men to run things for them.

The board typically consists of three or five members, with or without staggered terms. Three is the most common number, historically. In some places, a first selectman is appointed to head the board, often by election.

These men had charge of the day-to-day operations; selectmen were important in legislating policies central to a community's police force, highway supervisors, pound keepers, field drivers, and other officials. However, the larger towns grew, the more power would be distributed among other elected boards, such as fire wardens and police departments. For example, population increases led to the need for actual police departments, of which selectmen typically became the commissioners.

### **Sources**

Descendant, The Children of Robert White of Messing, Co. Essex, England, who settled in Hartford and Windsor, NHGR Vol 22:55(1901) Pages 22-31

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<sup>4</sup> Anderson, Robert Charles, The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England 1634-1635, Volume VII, T-Y Boston, MA: New England Historical and Genealogical Society, 2011

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Starr, Frank Farnsworth and James J. Goodwin, Various Ancestral Lines of James Goodwin and Lucy (Morgan) Goodwin of Hartford, Connecticut, volume 2. (Hartford, 1915): pages 395-419. ("The Family of Robert White"); HathiTrust.org link, Archive.org Link.

The source and transcription for Robert's will

(<https://archive.org/stream/variousancestral02star#page/396/mode/2up>), and is also transcribed here (not sourced though) (<https://archive.org/stream/descendantsofjos00loom#page/102/mode/2up>) cites the Prerogative Court Canterbury, volume Weldon 40.

## **Websites**