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VISITORS HAND OVER PILGRIM FATHERS BOOKS

## **President sends thanks for gift**

**A presidential aide accepted a gift for George W. Bush from a group of four Bassetlaw visitors.**

Tim Nank from the retiring leader's personal staff welcomed Barry Bowles to the White House.

Mr. Bowles was among a party of four Bassetlaw Conservatives – including his councillor wife Valerie – who were spending five days on the election trail. They had won the fact-finding trip to study political campaigning methods in late 2006 – when Bassetlaw Tories won the party's national award for campaigning excellence.

Mr. Bowles, who is deputy chairman of the Pilgrim Fathers UK Origins Association, was determined to pass on a relevant present. He broke off from an official tour of the White House to give Mr. Nank three bound copies of Lincolnshire author Sue Allan's books about the Pilgrim Fathers.

And the personal present was deemed appropriate – because Mr. Bush has authenticated claims to be descended from 17<sup>th</sup> century settlers (he is a direct descendent of Francis Cooke who was one of the Mayflower passengers).

"We went to Washington DC and Republican Senator John McCain's campaign headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia." said Mr. Bowles. "During our visit we gave out hundreds of brochures, CDs, DVDs and books – all promoting the Pilgrim Fathers and Bassetlaw."

"Many of the people we met were hungry for literature and information about their heritage. They all wanted to know more about their ancestors and the Pilgrim Fathers from Bassetlaw". "Several are already planning to come over for the 2012 Olympics and visit Nottinghamshire for a holiday."

"Mr. Nank received the books and he said that they will most probably be housed in the new library which Mr. Bush will have built after he leaves office."

The Bowles were delighted to receive their own 'special delivery' to their Worksop home within days of their return. A letter arrived from the White House; it says "Thank you for the books. I appreciate your kind gesture and thoughtfulness. Laura and I send our best wishes, sincerely, George W. Bush."