

Mayflower Biographies

On 16th September 1620 the Mayflower set sail with 102 passengers plus crew (between 30 & 40). They spotted land in America on 9th November.

William Bradford's writings...

William Bradford travelled on the *Mayflower* and he has left us some fantastic details about the passengers and settlers. The next few pages have some extracts from his writings.

Bradford wrote:

'The names of those which came over first, in the year 1620, and were by the blessing of God the first beginners and in a sort the foundation of all the Plantations and Colonies in New England; and their families.'

He ended the writings with the words:

'From William Bradford, Of Plimoth Plantation, 1650'

Read
their
stories...

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Read their stories...

Mr. John Carver, Katherine his wife, Desire Minter, and two manservants, John Howland, Roger Wilder. William Latham, a boy, and a maidservant and a child that was put to him called Jasper More.

John was born by about 1585, making him perhaps 35 when the Mayflower sailed. He may have been one of the original members of the Scrooby Separatists. Katherine Leggatt was from a Nottinghamshire family and it's thought that they married in Leiden before 1609. They buried a child there in 1617. In 1620, John was sent from Holland to London to negotiate the details of the migration.

John was elected the governor of the Mayflower and, on arrival in America, he became the governor of the colony too. He died of sunstroke in 1621. Katherine died weeks later of 'a broken heart'.

Desire's parents were from Norfolk, but moved to Leiden. When her father died in 1617 and her mother remarried a year later, she lived with other members of the Leiden congregation. She travelled on the Mayflower with Mr and Mrs Carver, but probably returned to England on the Fortune in 1621 – one of only two passengers to return within the first three years.

John Howland came from Fenstanton in Huntingdonshire. He was born by about 1592 and was a manservant to John Carver when the Mayflower sailed. Howland fell overboard during a storm, but held on to parts of the topsails. This gave the crew enough time to save him with a boat-hook. He was over 80 when he died.

Roger Wilder was a young man (under 18 or 21) when the ship sailed. He died during the first winter.

William Latham might have been from Chorley in Lancashire. He was 11 when the Mayflower sailed and a servant to John Carver. When Carver died, he became part of William Bradford's household. He lived in the colony and in nearby Duxbury before moving to the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He did return to England, but died of starvation on a journey to the Bahamas sometime between 1646 and 1651.

Jasper More – was baptised in August 1613, so was about seven when the Mayflower sailed. He was one of the four More children from Shipton in Shropshire, who travelled to the colony without either parent. Jasper died before the spring of 1621.

Read their stories...

Mr. William Brewster, Mary, his wife, with two sons, whose names were **Love** and **Wrestling**. And a boy was put to him called **Richard More**, and another of his brothers. The rest of his children were left behind and came over afterwards.

William was born in Scrooby, Nottinghamshire in about 1566 and, like his father, served as the postmaster there. He went to Peterhouse, Cambridge in 1580 but didn't graduate. He married Mary by 1593.

William was instrumental in establishing the Separatist church. He left for Amsterdam in 1608 and then for Leiden in 1609. There he became a church elder and teacher, preaching to the congregation regularly, and publishing religious materials (with Edward Winslow and Thomas Brewer), which were illegally sent into England.

William and Mary's three eldest children - Jonathan (born in 1593), Patience (born in 1603) and Fear (born in 1605) did not travel on the Mayflower, but did go to the colony later. Their youngest sons, Love (aged about 13) and Wrestling (aged 9) travelled with their parents in 1620.

Mary died in the colony on 17th April 1627. William died in April 1644 aged about 80. He left nearly 400 books in his library.

Richard More was one of the four More children from Shipton, Shropshire. Following their parents' divorce, they travelled without either their mother or father. Richard was baptised in November 1614, so was about six when the Mayflower sailed. He became a mariner, making several return trips to England in the 1630s and 1640s, but was a tavern keeper by the 1670s.

Read their stories...

Portrait of Edward Winslow

This portrait is in the collections of the Pilgrim Hall Museum. Edward is the only one of the 102 pilgrims whose image we have.



This portrait is in the collections of the Pilgrim Hall Museum. [Click here](#) to link to the website

Mr. Edward Winslow, Elizabeth his wife and two menservants called **George Soule** and **Elias Story**; also a little girl was put to him called **Ellen, the sister of Richard More**.

Edward was baptised in Droitwich in 1595 and attended the Kings School of Worcester Cathedral from 1606-11. He became a printer's apprentice in London. His work connected him to Holland, to the Separatist Church and the Pilgrim Press based there. He married Elizabeth Barker in Leiden in 1618.

Elizabeth died in the colony during the first winter. Edward remarried Susanna White, the widow of William White, on 12 May 1621 – the first marriage in the colony.

Edward published extensively about the colony in the 1620s-1640s. He was its governor three times, but returned to England in 1646 where he served on Cromwell's Parliamentary committees. He died at sea in 1655 aged '59 years, 6 months and 18 days'.

George Soule was born by about 1602 so was probably about 18 when the Mayflower sailed. It's not known where he was from.

Despite his surname, there are no stories about Elias Story. He died during the first winter at the colony.

Ellen was one of the four More children from Shipton in Shropshire. They travelled to America without either parent. Ellen was baptised in May 1612, so was about eight when the Mayflower sailed. She died shortly after the ship's arrival.

Read their stories...

William Bradford and Dorothy his wife, having but one child, a son left behind who came afterward.

William was baptised in Austerfield in Yorkshire, on 19th March 1589/90, and was orphaned by the age of seven. He was brought up by an uncle and by the age of about 18 in 1608, he had joined the Separatists in Amsterdam. He worked there as a silk weaver until he moved with the congregation to Leiden.

Dorothy May was born in about 1597 and was from Wisbech in Cambridgeshire. She was 16 when they married in Amsterdam in 1613. The Bradfords left their young son (John, about three years old) in Leiden when they sailed on the Mayflower.

In December 1620, whilst the ship was anchored in Provincetown Harbour, Dorothy fell overboard and drowned.

After the death of John Carver, Bradford became the colony's governor overseeing its finance, justice and historic record. He married again on the 16th August 1623, to Alice Southworth, and began writing his history Of Plymouth Plantation in 1630, completing it in 1651. He died in 1657 leaving one of the most extensive libraries of the first colonists (valued at £14 3s) including two bibles, 30 books or sets of books and 53 small books.

Their son John did come to America and lived in Duxbury, just outside the original colony.

Read their stories...

Mr. Isaac Allerton and Mary his wife, with three children, Bartholomew, Remember and Mary. And a servant boy John Hooke.

Isaac, who was born in about 1586, may have come from Ipswich in Suffolk. Mary Norris was from Newbury in Berkshire. He was a tailor, who became a businessman and a politician. They married in Leiden in 1611. Having just lost a child in 1620, they travelled to America with Bartholomew, who was seven or eight, Remember (about five) and Mary (about four). Aged about 30, Mary was pregnant on board the Mayflower. She gave birth to a still-born child, while the ship was at anchor in Plymouth harbour, in December 1620. Mary died two months later.

Isaac served as William Bradford's assistant in the 1620s and 30s, and was sent to England to manage discussions with the original investors. He became a merchant trading with the new colonies along the American east coast. He died in 1658/59.

John Hooke was about 12 on the Mayflower. In 1619, he signed up as an apprentice to Isaac for 12 years, but died during the first winter at the colony.

John Crackston and his son John Crackston.

John (senior) was baptised in about 1573. He married Catherine Bates in 1594 in Stratford St Mary, near Colchester. They had two children – Anna and John. Anna was married in Leiden in 1618 and did not travel to America, nor did her mother. John, who was about 18 in 1620, did.

John died during the first winter at the colony and his son John went to live with the Isaac Allerton family. He died in 1627.

Read their stories...

Captain Myles Standish and Rose his wife.

Myles was born by about 1593. Myles was either from Lancashire, or the Isle of Man. He and Rose were married by 1618. He was a military man and whilst stationed in Holland, he met the Leiden Separatists. They hired him to defend the colony against potential attacks from French, Spanish, Dutch or native Americans. He led expeditions from the Mayflower to find a site to establish the colony. He also organised the construction of the fort.

Rose died in January 1621. Myles died in 1656. His book collections included Homer's Iliad and Ceasar's Commentaries

Mr. Christopher Martin and his wife and two servants, Solomon Prower and John Langmore.

Christopher was from Great Burstead near Billericay in Essex and was born by about 1582. He married a widow, Mary Prower, in 1606/7. They had a son, Nathaniel, born in 1609/10, but there is no further record of him.

Although he was not part of the Leiden congregation, Christopher had a history of actions against the Church of England including refusing to kneel for communion in the Easter of 1612. He was a merchant who owned three properties near Billericay, which he sold between 1617-20. He became the 'treasurer agent' for the Mayflower and the Speedwell.

He, and Mary, died during the first winter in the colony.

Solomon Prower was Mary's son and Christopher Martin's step-son. He died on Christmas Eve of the first winter.

Nothing is known of their servant John Langmore except that he died during the first winter.

Read their stories...

Mr. William Mullins and his wife and two children, Joseph and Priscilla; and a servant, Robert Carter.

William was from Dorking in Surrey. He was born by about 1572 so was around 48 when the Mayflower sailed. He married Alice in about 1600. Although two of their children travelled with them, two others, William and Sarah, were left at home in Dorking. William was a shoe-maker, who brought 250 shoes and 13 pairs of boots with him on the Mayflower.

William, Alice and Joseph all died during the first winter. His will of 1621 is the only surviving will of passengers/colonists who died during the first winter. Priscilla was about 18 when she sailed on the Mayflower. She survived and married John Alden, the cooper (barrel-maker).

Robert Carter was a servant or apprentice to the Mullins family, so he was probably a teenager in 1620. He died during the first winter.

Read their stories...

Mr. William White and Susanna his wife and one son called Resolved, and one born a-shipboard called Peregrine, and two servants named William Holbeck and Edward Thompson.

William was born by about 1590 and Susanna in about 1595. They married in 1615. There were two William Whites living in Leiden before the sailing of the Mayflower. One was a wool-comber and one was a tobacco merchant. It is possible that neither travelled to America and this William White boarded the ship in England.

The Whites' son, Resolved, was about five when they travelled. Susanna gave birth to another son, Peregrine (meaning traveller), while the Mayflower was anchored off Cape Cod.

William died during the first winter. Susanna was one of only four women to survive it. She remarried Edward Winslow. Theirs was the first marriage at the new colony in 1621.

Resolved survived and fought against the Wampanoag in King Philips War of 1676. He died in 1690.

Peregrine lived until he was over 80, dying in 1704.

William Holbeck may have been from Norwich and is believed to have been part of the Leiden community. He was one of nine men who did not sign the Mayflower Compact, when the ship arrived in 1620.

Edward Thompson was the first Mayflower passenger to die after the ship had anchored off Cape Cod.

Read their stories...

Mr. Stephen Hopkins and Elizabeth his wife, and two children called Giles and Constanta, a daughter, both by a former wife. And two more by this wife called Damaris and Oceanus; the last was born at sea. And two servants called Edward Doty and Edward Lester.

Stephen was baptised in 1581 at Upper Clatford in Hampshire. He was the minister's clerk on board the Sea Venture in 1609. The ship was bound for the Jamestown colony, but was shipwrecked off Bermuda. Stephen was stranded on the island for 10 months, helping to establish the first colony there. He did reach Jamestown, but was back in England and married to his second wife Elizabeth Fisher by 1617.

When they sailed from London, Stephen was a tanner and merchant. Giles was 12, Constanta was 14 and Damaris was about two when the family left for America.

Elizabeth gave birth to a son, Oceanus, on board the Mayflower during the journey across the Atlantic. She was one of only four women to survive the first year at the colony. Oceanus died during the first or second year.

Elizabeth and Stephen had five more children in the colony.

Elizabeth died in the early 1640s and Stephen died in 1644.

Edward Doty was born by about 1589 and may have come from Lincolnshire. He was a servant to Hopkins on board and at the colony. In 1621, he and fellow servant Edward Lester had a sword and dagger duel. Both were wounded and punished. Edward Lester (sometimes Leister) left the colony at the end of his contract and died in Jamestown. Edward Doty died in August 1655.

Read their stories...

Mr. Richard Warren, but his wife and children were left behind and came afterwards.

It is thought that Richard was born in Hertford by 1578 and married Elizabeth Walker in Great Amwell, Hertfordshire in 1610. Richard left his wife Elizabeth and five daughters behind when he sailed in 1620. They joined him when the ship Anne arrived in the colony in 1623.

Richard died in 1628. His wife Elizabeth lived until 1673, when she was thought to be about 90. Their children (two sons) all survived and had large families. He is one of the most common passengers to be descended from.

John Billington and Ellen his wife, and two sons, John and Francis.

This family was possibly from Lincolnshire, probably Spalding or Cowbit. John (senior) was born by about 1579 and married Ellen (sometimes Eleanor) by 1604.

John, their elder son, was about 16 when the family left on the Mayflower. At anchor in Plymouth harbour, his brother Francis, who was about 14, shot his father's musket too close to gunpowder inside the ship. He died in 1674 aged 68. His brother John died between 1627-30.

Ellen or Eleanor was one of only four women to survive the first year at the colony.

John (senior) was hanged for the murder of John Newcomen in September 1630. His wife was sentenced to sit in stocks and be whipped for slander six years later.

Read their stories...

Edward Tilley and Ann his wife, and two children that were their cousins, Henry Sampson and Humility Cooper.

Edward was from Henlow in Bedfordshire and was baptised there in 1588. He married Ann (also known as Agnes) in Henlow in 1614 and they were living Leiden in Holland by 1618. Henry and Humility were her nephew and niece.

Henry Sampson was baptised in January 1604, so was about 17 on board the Mayflower.

Humility Cooper was born in about 1619, so was a young baby (no more than a year old) on board the Mayflower.

Edward and Ann both died during the first winter.

Henry had nine children and died in 1684/5.

Humility did return to England and was baptised in London in 1638. She was 19.

John Tilley and his wife, and Elizabeth their daughter.

John Tilley, Edward Tilley's brother, was born in Henlow in Bedfordshire and was baptised there in 1571. John married his wife Joan in 1596.

John and Joan both died during the first winter at the colony. Their daughter Elizabeth, who was about 13 when they sailed, survived. She later married Mayflower passenger John Howland.

Read their stories...

Francis Cooke and his son John; but his wife and other children came afterwards.

It is not clear where Francis was from, but Norwich is likely. He was born in, or shortly after, 1583. Francis was a wool-comber. He married Hester le Mahieu in Leiden, Holland in 1603 and their first son, John, was baptised there in 1607.

In 1620, Francis left his wife and 4 children behind, taking only his eldest son, John, to America. The family was reunited in the colony 1623. Francis died in 1663. Hester died in 1666.

Thomas Rogers and Joseph his son; his other children came afterwards.

Thomas was born by about 1572 and was married in Watford in 1597. He became a citizen of Leiden in 1618. He was a merchant specialising in camlet (a luxury fabric made from camel hair or angora wool mixed with silk). He sold a house in Leiden in April 1620 and he and his 18 year old son, Joseph, sailed for America. His wife Alice, and three other children were left in Holland.

Thomas died in the first winter at the colony.

In 1622, the Leiden poll tax recorded his two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret, as 'poor people' and 'without means'. It's thought that they, and his younger son, John, came to the colony in about 1630. Joseph died in 1677/78.

Read their stories...

Thomas Tinker and his wife and a son.

The Tinker family may have come from Norfolk. His wife may have been Jane and his son, Richard. In 1617, the family was in Holland where Thomas was given citizenship of Leiden and worked as a wood sawyer.

The family all died in the first 'sickness' at the colony.

John Rigsdale and Alice his wife.

There is a marriage record which suggests this couple may have married at St Mary, Weston in Lincolnshire in 1577. If this couple are the couple of the record, they were amongst the oldest passengers on the Mayflower and possibly in their 60s or 70s.

They both died during the first winter at the colony.

Read their stories...

James Chilton and his wife, and Mary their daughter; they had another daughter that was married, came afterward.

James Chilton was born in about 1556 and was from Canterbury, Kent. He was married by 1596. Although his wife's name is not known, she was excommunicated from St Peter Sandwich in Kent.

The family was living in Leiden in 1619, where he worked as a tailor. They had 11 children, but only James, his wife and their youngest daughter Mary, travelled on the Mayflower.

At 64, James was the oldest known passenger to make the voyage, but died on 8th December 1620 whilst the ship was anchored in Provincetown harbour. His wife died during the first winter, but their 13 year old daughter Mary survived.

Edward Fuller and his wife, and Samuel their son.

Edward was baptised in Redenhall in Norfolk in 1575. He was the brother of Samuel, who also travelled on the Mayflower. His wife may have been called Ann. They were living in Leiden before the sailing, and travelled with their son, Samuel, who was about 12.

Edward and his wife died during the first winter.

Samuel survived and had nine children. He died in 1683. His will gave a Native American called Joel to his son.

Read their stories...

John Turner and two sons; he had a daughter came some years after to Salem, where she is now living.

John was born by about 1590 and worked as a merchant. He became a citizen of Leiden in September 1610 and was married in 1615. He and two sons (aged about five and three) travelled on the Mayflower. His wife and baby daughter Elizabeth remained behind.

John and his sons all died during the first winter at the colony.

It is not known whether his wife crossed the Atlantic, but Elizabeth did travel to America and was living in Salem by 1650.

Francis Eaton and Sarah his wife, and Samuel their son, a young child.

Francis was baptised at St Thomas in Bristol in 1596. He was a carpenter. He married Sarah in about 1618 and they travelled on the Mayflower with their baby son, Samuel, who was born in 1619/20.

Sarah died during the first winter. Francis married again twice – first to Dorothy, who may have been the unnamed servant of John Carver, who also travelled on the Mayflower. He died in 1633 when Samuel was 13 or 14. His estate included one cow and a calf, two hogs, fifty bushels of corn, a black suit, a white hat and a black hat, boots, saws, hammers, an adze, square, augers, a chisel, boards, fishing lead, and some kitchen items.

Samuel had four children and died in 1684.

Read their stories...

Moses Fletcher, John Goodman, Thomas Williams, Digory Priest, Edmund Margesson, Peter Browne, Richard Britteridge, Richard Clarke, Richard Gardiner, Gilbert Winslow.

Moses was probably from Canterbury and about 55 when the Mayflower left England. He and his wife Maria had ten children baptised and/or buried in Sandwich. He was employed as a sexton there, but was excommunicated three times from the church there twice for illegal burials. He remarried in Leiden in 1613, but travelled alone to America. He died during the first winter.

John Goodman has a mysterious past and there are several cases of mistaken identity. Little is known of his life before the sailing. But in the colony, on 12 January 1621, he and Peter Browne were cutting thatch for house roofing. Taking a break, they went for a walk. Their mastiff and spaniel saw a deer and began the chase. John and Peter were soon lost. Thinking they had heard a lion, they spent the night in a tree, enduring rain and snow. They found their way back to Plymouth the following day. Goodman suffered some frostbite to his feet. He had died by 1627.

Thomas Williams was from Great Yarmouth in Norfolk. He was a member of the Leiden congregation. He died during the first winter.

Degory Priest was once thought to have been from Hartland, but London is more likely. He was born in about 1579, so was about 40 when the Mayflower sailed. He was married in Leiden in 1611, became a citizen of the city in 1615 and worked as a hatter. He and his wife Sarah had two children (two daughters, Mary and Sarah), but he travelled to America alone. He died in the first winter. His children, his wife and her new husband and son came to Plymouth on the Anne in 1623.

Continued...

Read their stories...

Continued...

Moses Fletcher, John Goodman, Thomas Williams, Digory Priest, Edmund Margesson, Peter Browne, Richard Britteridge, Richard Clarke, Richard Gardiner, Gilbert Winslow.

Edmund Margesson may have been born in Swannington, Norfolk in 1586, but this cannot be confirmed. He travelled alone and died during the first winter.

Peter Browne was from Dorking in Surrey. He was a weaver. He died in 1633 and his will showed he owned 130 bushels of corn, six goats, one cow, eight sheep, and a number of pigs.

Richard Britteridge may have come from Crowhurst in Surrey. He travelled alone, but was not a servant. He was the first passenger to die when the ship moved from Provincetown harbour to Plymouth harbour, in December 1620.

Richard Clarke died during the first winter and nothing is known of his life before he left England.

Richard Gardinar may have been from Harwich, or from Guildford. He was probably a seaman. It is unclear whether he died back in England or at sea.

Gilbert Winslow was from Droitwich and was the younger brother of Edward Winslow. He was baptised in 1600, so was 20 when he sailed on the Mayflower. He did return to England in 1627 and is buried in Ludlow.

Read their stories...

John Alden was hired for a cooper at Southampton where the ship victualled, and being a hopeful young man was much desired but left to his own liking to go or stay when he came here; but he stayed and married here.

John was born in about 1599 and may have come from Harwich, the hometown of the ship's master, Christopher Jones. John was hired in Southampton as the cooper, or barrel-maker for the journey. His employers gave him the option of staying in America or returning to England after the voyage.

He stayed in the colony and married passenger Priscilla Mullins in 1622 or 1623.

He helped to found the town of Duxbury just beyond the colony. He was also one of the colonists who purchased the joint stock company from its English shareholders in 1626.

He died in 1687 at the age of 89, one of the last surviving Mayflower passengers.

His house in Duxbury is preserved today by the Alden Kindred of America.

Read their stories...

John Allerton and **Thomas English** were both hired, the latter to go master of a shallop here, and the other was reputed as one of the company but was to go back (being a seaman) for the help of others behind. But they both died here before the ship returned. Thomas may have been in Leiden in 1613 – the witness to marriage.

John Allerton may have been the brother of Isaac Allerton, from Ipswich. He was living in Leiden in 1616. It was suggested he would return to Holland to help others prepare to migrate to the colony, but he died during the first winter.

Thomas English was probably a member of the Leiden congregation, but very little is known about him. He died during the first winter in the colony.

There were also other two seamen hired to stay a year here in the country, **William Trevor**, and one **Ely**. But when their time was out they both returned.

William Trevor was employed as a labourer for a year. He might have been a seaman on the Speedwell too. He returned to England on the Fortune in 1621 and became the master of the William taking passengers to America in the 1630s.

Ely – nothing is known about Ely other than this reference.

These being about a hundred souls, came over in this first ship and began this work, which God of His goodness hath hitherto blessed. Let His holy name have the praise.

From William Bradford, Of Plimoth Plantation, 1650