



The Mayflower Passengers: Biographies

Mayflower learning resource



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The Mayflower Passengers: Biographies

Introduction

For the first time ever, and as part of the research towards developing our 'Mayflower 400: Legend and Legacy' exhibition, detailed biographies of all of the passengers who sailed on the *Mayflower* have been created. Drawn from William Bradford's 'Of Plimoth Plantation' and Edward Winslow's 'Good Newes from the colonies', and verified with additional research from the New England Historical Genealogical Society, the biographies – arranged into 'family' or associated groups – support teaching and learning about the *Mayflower's* history, by providing tantalising insight into the individuals involved.

Ideas for activities

There are lots of ways you can use this resource, and by reading through these biographies you'll come up with ways to explore the fascinating characters on board the *Mayflower*. Here are some ideas of things you might do:

History

Discuss: what do we know about these individuals and what do we have to imagine?

Literacy

Choose one individual: imagine and write about their experience.

Oracy

Pick a passenger and put them in the hotseat. Choose one of their experiences that is described - it could be a marriage, a fight, the voyage itself. Everyone asks the passenger in the hotseat questions, and the passenger describes their experiences to their classmates. What were they thinking, feeling, sensing?

Geography

Try counting men and women, children and adults or another grouping. Can you formulate this into a chart? What can you say about the division of people who were on board?

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Oldest man

John Chilton

Aged about: 63/64

Oldest boy

Francis Billington

Aged about: 16/17 or

John Crackston

Aged about: 18 or

Francis Billington

Aged about: born around 1606/7

Youngest boy

Samuel Eaton

Aged about: (a baby) or Oceanus Hopkins. Oceanus was technically the youngest as he was born aboard the *Mayflower* in the Atlantic

Men

39

25 married – not all of them had their families with them

Oldest woman

Mrs Chilton

Aged about: or possibly

Mary Brewster.

Aged about: 58

Oldest girl

Priscilla Mullins

Aged about: 17/18

Youngest girl

Humility Cooper

Aged about: 1

Women

18 women -
3 pregnant

(Elizabeth Hopkins,
Susanna White, Mary Allerton)

Children

22 boys and 11 girls

Aged about: 1 to 18

12 Servants

10 boys and 2 girls

19 Family Groups

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Biographies

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.

From William Bradford, Of Plimoth Plantation, 1650

The text in this form is the historic record – from William Bradford’s ‘Of Plimoth Plantation’. It describes the groups who travelled and their relationships. It also includes some who were left behind. It proves that the names of some passengers were forgotten, or not known, even by William Bradford.

The normal text gives biographical information about the individuals on board. This comes from family historians, who have researched the records of these passengers for many years.

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 Carver

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. 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’.

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**Katherine
(White)
(Leggatt) Carver**

Katherine was from a Nottinghamshire family (the Whites). She had married John Carver, possibly in Leiden, before 1609. They buried a child there in 1617. She died within the first year of the Plymouth colony – in late May or early June 1621. Her death came five or six weeks after her husband's.

Desire Minter

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 the Carvers, but probably returned to England on the *Fortune* in 1621 – one of only two passengers to return within the first three years.

John Howland

John came from Fenstanton, Huntingdonshire. He was born by about 1592 and was a manservant to John Carver. On the voyage, 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 married passenger Elizabeth Tilley and they had 10 children. He was over 80 when he died.

Roger Wilder

Roger was a young man (under 18 or 21) when the ship sailed. He was a servant to John Carver. He died shortly before his master during the first winter.

William Latham

William, possibly from Chorley, was 11 when the *Mayflower* sailed. He was 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.

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A maidservant Her name is believed to be Dorothy. She travelled as the unnamed maidservant of the Carver family. She married Francis Eaton after the death of his first wife, but died by 1623.

Jasper More Jasper was baptised in August 1613, so was about seven when the *Mayflower* sailed. He was one of the four More children (with Ellen, Mary and Richard) from Shipton in Shropshire, who travelled to the colony without either parent. Jasper died before the spring of 1621.

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 Brewster William was born in Scrooby, Nottinghamshire around 1566 and was its postmaster. He went to Cambridge University, but didn't graduate. William was instrumental in establishing the Separatist church. He left England for Holland in 1608. In Leiden 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. He died in Duxbury in 1644.

Mary Brewster Mary was born in about 1569, but her maiden name isn't known. She married William Brewster around 1592 and had five surviving children with him. The youngest two travelled on the *Mayflower* in 1620. The three elder children arrived later. Mary died in the colony on 17 April 1627.

Love Brewster Love was about 13 when the *Mayflower* sailed. He was the fourth child of William and Mary, and travelled with his parents and younger brother, Wrestling. Love survived and served in Myles Standish's militia. He married a later settler, Sarah Collier, in 1634 and they had four children.

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Wrestling Brewster

Wrestling was the youngest child of William and Mary. He was about nine when his parents and brother, Love sailed on the *Mayflower*. His elder siblings, Jonathan (born in 1593), Patience (born in 1603) and Fear (born in 1605) came to the colony later. Wrestling died between 1627-51.

Mary More

Mary was baptised in 1616, so was four when the *Mayflower* sailed. She was one of the four More children who travelled without either parent. Mary was probably placed with the Brewsters, along with her brother, Richard but the historic record describes her as 'his brother'. She died in 1621.

Richard More

Richard was baptised in 1614, so was about six when the *Mayflower* sailed. He, with siblings Ellen, Mary and Jasper, was one of the four More children from Shipton, Shropshire who travelled without either parent. Richard was the only sibling to survive. He became a mariner, married and had seven children.

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 Winslow

Edward was baptised in Droitwich in 1595. Educated in Worcester, he became a printer's apprentice in London. His work connected him to Holland, the Separatist Church and the Pilgrim Press. Edward published extensively about the Plymouth 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 married twice and died at sea in 1655 aged '59 years, 6 months and 18 days'.

Elizabeth (Barker) Winslow

Elizabeth married Edward Winslow in Leiden in 1618. She died during the first winter. Her husband married again (to Susanna White in May 1621) and this was the colony's first marriage.

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George Soule

George was born by about 1602 so was probably about 18 when the *Mayflower* sailed. It's not known where he was from. He was one of two servants to Edward Winslow. George married Mary Buckett, who had arrived in 1623 on the ship *Anne*. They had nine children.

Elias Story

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

Ellen More

Ellen was baptised in May 1612, so was about eight when the *Mayflower* sailed. She, with her siblings Jasper, Richard and Mary, were the four More children from Shipton in Shropshire. They travelled to America without either parent. Ellen travelled with the Winslows but died shortly after the ship's arrival.

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

William Bradford

William was born in Austerfield, Yorkshire around 1590, but 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.

After the death of John Carver, Bradford became the colony's governor, overseeing its finance, justice and historic record. He married again on the 16 August 1623, to Alice Southworth, and began writing his history 'Of Plimoth 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.

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Dorothy (May) Bradford

Dorothy was born around 1597 in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire. She married William Bradford in Amsterdam in 1613, but left her son (John, aged three) in Leiden when the *Mayflower* sailed. In December 1620, whilst the ship was anchored in Provincetown harbour, Dorothy fell overboard and drowned. Her son John eventually came to America and lived in Duxbury, just outside the original colony.

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

Isaac Allerton

Isaac was born around 1586, possibly in Ipswich, Suffolk. He was a tailor and a businessman. As William Bradford's assistant, he was sent to England to meet with the colony's original investors. He became a merchant trading with the new colonies along the American east coast, and was eventually banished from Plymouth. He married three times and died in 1659.

Mary (Norris) Allerton

Mary Norris was from Newbury, Berkshire. She married in Leiden in 1611 and travelled to America with three children - Bartholomew (about eight), Remember (about five) and Mary (about four). Aged about 30, Mary was pregnant on board the *Mayflower*. In December 1620, while the ship was at anchor in Plymouth harbour, she gave birth to a still-born child. Mary died in February 1621.

Bartholomew Allerton

Bartholomew was the son of Isaac Allerton and Mary Norris. He was born around 1613, so was seven or eight when he travelled on the *Mayflower*. He returned to England as an adult and became a minister in Suffolk. He married twice and had at least four children.

Remember Allerton

Remember was the daughter of Isaac Allerton and Mary Norris. She was born around 1615, so was about five when she crossed the Atlantic on the *Mayflower* with her parents. By 1635, she had married Moses Maverick. She spent her life in Marblehead and Salem and had seven children.

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Mary Allerton Mary was about four when she sailed for America with her parents, Isaac and Mary Allerton. She married Thomas Cushman and had eight children. She died on 28 November 1699 – the last surviving *Mayflower* passenger.

John Hooke John was about 12 when he sailed on the *Mayflower* with the Allerton family. A year earlier, in the January 1619, he had become an apprentice to Isaac Allerton in Leiden. His apprenticeship was for 12 years, but he died during the first winter at the colony.

Mr. Samuel Fuller and a servant called William Button. His wife was behind, and a child which came afterwards.

Samuel Fuller Samuel was from Redenhall in Norfolk, the son of a butcher. He was about 40 when he sailed to America. He became the colony's surgeon or doctor. His third wife, Bridget, and their daughter arrived on the ship *Anne* in 1623. They had two more children. Samuel died in 1633.

William Button William Button is often referred to as 'a youth' in 1620. He travelled as a servant to Samuel Fuller. He was the only *Mayflower* passenger to die during the journey. He died three days before they saw land.

John Crackston and his son John Crackston.

John Crackston John (senior) was in his late 40s when he sailed to America. He had two children – Anna and John. Anna was married in Leiden in 1618 and did not travel to America, but John made the voyage with their father. John (senior) died during the first winter at the colony.

John Crackston John (junior) was about 18 when he sailed to America with his father John Crackston (senior). When his father died during the first winter, John went to live with the family of Isaac Allerton. He died in 1627 following frostbite and a fever.

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Captain Myles Standish and Rose his wife.

Myles Standish

Myles was born by about 1593. He was either from Lancashire or the Isle of Man. He became a military man and whilst stationed in Holland, he met the Leiden Separatists. They hired him as their captain and 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. His wife Rose died during the first winter. He remarried in 1624 and had seven children. Myles died in 1656. His book collections included Homer's Iliad and Ceasar's Commentaries.

Rose Standish

Very little is known about Rose. She had married Myles Standish by 1618. He was hired as the military captain for the 1620 voyage to America and she travelled with her husband. She died in January 1621.

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

Christopher Martin

Christopher was from Great Burstead, near Billericay, Essex. He married Mary Prower in 1606/7. 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 died during the first winter in the colony.

Mary (Prower) Martin

Mary was a widow when she married Christopher Martin in 1607. Their son Nathaniel was born in 1610, but did not travel with them on the *Mayflower* ten years later. Her son, Solomon, from her first marriage, did sail. Mary died during the first winter in the colony.

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Solomon Prower Solomon travelled with his mother Mary (Prower) Martin and his step-father Christopher Martin. He was described as a 'servant'. He died during the first winter in the colony.

John Langmore John travelled with Christopher and Mary (Prower) Martin and her son, Solomon. He is described as a servant and nothing more is known about him. He died during the first winter.

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

William Mullins William was a shoemaker from Dorking, Surrey. He was in his late 40s when the *Mayflower* sailed. He travelled with his wife and two of their children, leaving two others in England. His will of 1621 is the only surviving will of all the passengers who died during the first winter.

Alice Mullins Alice was the wife of William Mullins and the mother of four children – William, Joseph, Sarah and Priscilla. In 1620 she travelled to America with her husband and two children, leaving two in England. Alice, her husband and son, all died during the first winter in the colony.

Joseph Mullins Joseph was the second son of William and Alice Mullins. He was born in about 1596, so was about 24 when the *Mayflower* sailed. Leaving his elder brother and younger sister in England, he travelled with his parents and youngest sister, Priscilla. He died during the first winter.

Priscilla Mullins Priscilla was about 18 when she sailed on the *Mayflower*. She was the youngest daughter of William and Alice Mullins, from Dorking in Surrey. Following the death of her parents and brother, she married John Alden, the *Mayflower's* cooper, in 1623. They had 11 children. There are many Alden descendants.

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Robert Carter Robert Carter travelled as a servant to the Mullins family from Dorking, Surrey. He was probably a teenager in 1620. He died during the first winter in the colony.

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 White William was born by about 1590 and 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.

He travelled to America with his wife, Susanna and their son, Resolved. William's second child, Peregrine, was born shortly after the *Mayflower* arrived in America (4 December 1620). William died during the first winter.

Susanna (Jackson) White (Winslow) Susanna married William White in 1615. She travelled on the *Mayflower* with her husband and their son, Resolved. Susanna was pregnant on board and gave birth to Peregrine (meaning traveller) in December 1620. Following her husband's death during the first winter, her second marriage was the colony's first. She and Edward Winslow had five children.

Resolved White Resolved was the first son of William and Susanna White. He was about five when the *Mayflower* sailed. His brother, Peregrine, was born just after the ship arrived in America. Resolved was brought up by his mother and stepfather, Edward Winslow. He married Judith Vassall in 1640 and died in 1690.

Peregrine White Peregrine was born while the *Mayflower* was anchored off Cape Cod in December 1620. His name means 'traveller'. He was the second son of William and Susanna White, and a younger brother to Resolved. He lived in Massachusetts into his 80s, dying in 1704.

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William Holbeck William was one of two servants who travelled with the White family. He 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* in 1620. He died soon after landing.

Edward Thompson Edward was one of two servants who travelled with the White family. He was the first passenger to die after the ship had anchored off Cape Cod.

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 Hopkins Stephen was baptised in 1581 and was from Upper Clatford, Hampshire. He sailed to America 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, he was a tanner and merchant.

Elizabeth (Fisher) Hopkins Elizabeth was pregnant when she set sail for America. She gave birth at sea and named her new son, Oceanus. Her daughter, Damaris, and two step-children (Giles and Constanta) also travelled to America, where Elizabeth gave birth to five more children. She was one of only four women to survive the first year at the colony.

Giles Hopkins Giles was born in 1607, so was about 12 when he sailed on the *Mayflower*. He was the son of Stephen Hopkins, but his mother Mary died when he was six. He and his sister Constanta travelled with their father and step-mother, Elizabeth. Giles married in 1639.

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Constanta Hopkins

Constanta, or Constance, was about 14 when she sailed on the *Mayflower*. She was the second daughter of Stephen Hopkins and his first wife, Mary. Her mother died in 1613, so she travelled to America with her father, stepmother, brother Giles and step-sister Damaris. She married in 1627.

Damaris Hopkins

Damaris was about two when the family left for America with her parents, Stephen and Elizabeth Hopkins. Her brother Oceanus was born at sea. Damaris died in the colony sometime before 1628. The Damaris Hopkins recorded with children in the 1670s may have been a sister named after her.

Oceanus Hopkins

Oceanus was born at sea during the *Mayflower's* voyage across the Atlantic. He was the son of Stephen and Elizabeth Hopkins and a brother to Damaris. Oceanus survived the first winter in the colony, but died by 1627.

Edward Doty

Edward was one of two servants to the Hopkins family. He was born by about 1589 and may have come from Lincolnshire. In 1621, he and fellow servant Edward Lester shared the colony's first duel. Edward married Faith Clark in 1635 and they had nine children. He died in August 1655.

Edward Lester

Edward was one of two servants to the Hopkins family. In 1621, he and fellow servant Edward Doty 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, Virginia.

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

Richard Warren 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 and five daughters behind when he sailed on the *Mayflower*. They joined him when the *Anne* arrived in 1623. He and Elizabeth had two more sons. Richard died in 1628. 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.

John Billington John was probably from Spalding, Lincolnshire. He was born by about 1579 and married Ellen by 1604. They had two sons – John (junior) and Francis. Early records of the colony suggest John Billington clashed with his fellow colonists. He was hanged for the murder of John Newcomen in September 1630.

Ellen Billington Ellen is sometimes referred to as Eleanor. Probably from Lincolnshire, she travelled to America with her husband, John, and two sons, John (junior) and Francis. Ellen was one of only four women to survive the first year in the colony. She was whipped for slander in 1636. She remarried in 1638.

John Billington (junior) John was the elder son of John and Ellen Billington. He was about 16 when the family left on the *Mayflower*. Not long after their arrival, John wandered in the woods and became lost. A rescue party found him on Cape Cod with the Nauset people. He died between 1627-30.

Francis Billington Francis Billington was about 14, when he left for America with his parents and elder brother. While the *Mayflower* was anchored in Plymouth harbour, Francis shot a musket close to gunpowder inside the ship and caused an explosion. He married Christian (Penn) Eaton in 1634 and had nine children.

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

Edward Tilley Edward was from Henlow, Bedfordshire and was baptised there in 1588. He was the brother of fellow passenger, John Tilley. He married Ann (also known as Agnes) Cooper in 1614 and they were living Leiden, Holland by 1618. Edward is reported to have been a weaver there. He died during the first winter in America.

Ann (Cooper) Tilley Ann is sometimes referred to as Agnes. She married Edward Tilley in Henlow in 1614 and they were living Leiden in Holland by 1618. They travelled to America in 1620 with her nephew Henry and niece Humility. Ann died during the first winter in the colony.

Henry Sampson Henry Sampson was baptised in January 1604, so was about 17 when the *Mayflower* sailed. He travelled with his aunt, Ann Tilley, her husband Edward, and his cousin Humility Cooper. Henry married Anne Plummer in 1636 and they had nine children. He died in 1684/5 and is buried in the colony's cemetery.

Humility Cooper Humility Cooper was born in about 1619, so was a young baby on board the *Mayflower*. She travelled with her aunt Ann (Cooper) Tilley and her husband Edward, and her cousin Henry Sampson. Humility returned to England and was baptised in London in 1638. She was 19.

John Tilley and his wife, and Elizabeth their daughter.

John Tilley John Tilley, with his younger brother Edward, was born in Henlow, Bedfordshire. John was baptised in 1571 and married his wife Joan (Hurst) Rogers in 1596. They sailed on the *Mayflower* with their daughter, Elizabeth. John was part of the coastal expedition in December, but died during the first winter.

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Joan (Hurst) (Rogers) Tilley

Joan (Hurst) was the widow of Thomas Rogers when she married John Tilley in 1596. There are birth records of four children (Rose, John, Rose and Robert), but John and Joan sailed on the *Mayflower* with their 13-year old daughter, Elizabeth. Joan died during the first winter in the colony.

Elizabeth Tilley

Elizabeth was born in Henlow, Bedfordshire in 1607. She was the fifth but only surviving child of John and Joan Tilley. Her parents and her aunt and uncle died during the first winter in the colony. She married passenger John Howland in around 1625 and had 10 children.

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

Francis Cooke

Francis may have been born in Norwich shortly after 1583. He became a wool-comber and married Hester le Mahieu in Leiden, Holland in 1603. They had seven children. In 1620, Francis left his wife and four children behind, taking only his eldest son, John, to America. The family was reunited in 1623.

John Cooke

John was the eldest son of Francis Cooke and Hester le Mathieu. He was about 13 when he travelled with his father to America. His mother and siblings stayed behind, but joined them in 1623. John married Sarah Warren (daughter of passenger Richard Warren) and had five children. He died in 1695.

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

Thomas Rogers

Thomas was born by about 1572 and married in Watford in 1597. He became a citizen of Leiden in 1618. He sailed for America with his son, Joseph, aged 18. His wife Alice and three children stayed in Holland. Thomas died in the first winter at the colony.

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Joseph Rogers Joseph was the oldest surviving son of Thomas Rogers. He was aged about 18, he sailed to America with his father. His mother and three siblings were left in Leiden, but the children arrived in the colony later. Joseph married Hannah by 1633 and had six children.

Thomas Tinker and his wife and a son.

Thomas Tinker Thomas probably came 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. Thomas and family all died in the first 'sickness' at the colony.

Thomas Tinker's wife Her name is not known, although there are some suggestions she may have been called Jane. She lived in Leiden with her husband Thomas, who worked as a wood sawyer. Mrs Tinker travelled to America with her husband and son. They all died during the first winter.

Thomas' Tinker's son His name is not known, although it's thought he may have been called Richard. He lived with his parents in Leiden. They travelled as a family on the *Mayflower*, but all died during the first winter in the colony.

John Rigsdale and Alice his wife.

John Rigsdale Very little is known about John Rigsdale. There is a marriage record which suggests a marriage at St Mary, Weston in Lincolnshire in 1577. If this is correct, John was one of the oldest passengers on the *Mayflower* - and would have been in his late 60s or 70s. He died during the first winter at the colony.

Alice Rigsdale Very little is known about Alice Rigsdale. There is a marriage record which suggests a marriage at St Mary, Weston in Lincolnshire in 1577. If this is correct, Alice was one of the oldest passengers on the *Mayflower* - and would have been in her late 60s or 70s. She died during the first winter at the colony.

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

James Chilton James was born around 1556, probably in Canterbury, Kent. He was married by 1596 and living in Leiden in 1619, working before as a tailor. He had 10 children, but travelled with his wife and their youngest daughter, Mary. At 64, James was the oldest known passenger on board. He died in December 1620.

Mrs Chilton Her name is not known, but she had married James Chilton by 1596. Records show she was 'excommunicated from St Peter Sandwich in Kent' in 1609. She had 10 children, all in Kent. She travelled to America with her husband and daughter Mary from Leiden, but died during the first winter.

Mary Chilton Mary was born in Sandwich, Kent in 1607. She was 13 when she travelled on the *Mayflower* with her parents, but without her nine siblings. Both parents died during the first winter. She survived to marry John Winslow, who arrived on the *Fortune* in 1621. They had 10 children.

Edward Fuller and his wife, and Samuel their son.

Edward Fuller Edward was baptised in Redenhall, 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 died during the first winter.

Mrs Fuller Her name is not known, but she may have been called Ann. She married Edward Fuller by 1605 and a son, Matthew was born the same year. They were living in Leiden before the sailing and travelled with their son, Samuel, who was about 12. Mrs Fuller died during the first winter.

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Samuel Fuller Samuel was the son of Edward and Mrs Fuller from Norfolk. He was 12 when he arrived in America, but both of his parents died during the first winter. Samuel survived and married Jane Lothrop in 1635. They had nine children. He died in 1683.

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

John Turner John was born by about 1590 and became 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 died during the first winter. It is not known whether his wife crossed the Atlantic, but Elizabeth did travel to America and was living in Salem by 1650.

John Turner's sons Their name are not known, but they travelled to America with their father, John and a brother. Their mother and sister were left behind in Leiden. They and their father all died during the first winter in the colony. Their sister eventually came to America and lived in Salem.

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

Francis Eaton Francis was baptised at St Thomas, Bristol in 1596. He was a carpenter. He married Sarah in about 1618 and they travelled on the *Mayflower* with their son, Samuel, born in 1619/20. Following Sarah's death, Francis married again – first to Dorothy, and then to Christian Penn around 1626. They had three children. When he died his estate included one cow and a calf, two hogs, 50 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.

The Mayflower Passengers: Biographies

- Sarah Eaton** Sarah married Francis Eaton in 1618. She sailed to America with her husband and their son, Samuel who was born in 1619/20. Sarah died during the first winter. Her husband and son survived.
- Samuel Eaton** Samuel was the son of Francis and Sarah Eaton. He was a baby when the *Mayflower* sailed. His mother died during the first winter but his father survived. Samuel was apprenticed to John Cooke in 1636. He married twice – to Elizabeth (1646) and to Martha Billington (1660). He had four children.

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

- Moses Fletcher** Moses was probably from Canterbury, Kent and about 55 in 1620. He and his first wife Maria had 10 children in Sandwich, where he was a sexton. He was excommunicated three times for illegal burials. He remarried in Leiden in 1613, but travelled alone to America. He died during the first winter.
- John Goodman** John is mysterious and there are several cases of mistaken identity. Little is known of his life before the sailing. 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** Thomas was from Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. He was a member of the Leiden congregation who travelled on the *Mayflower* in 1620. He died during the first winter.

The Mayflower Passengers: Biographies

- Digory Priest** Digory (sometimes 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 had two children (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.
- Edmund Margesson** Edmund 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** Peter 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** Richard may have come from Crowhurst, 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** Richard died during the first winter and nothing is known of his life before he left England.
- Richard Gardiner** Richard may have been from Harwich, Essex or from Guildford, Surrey. He was probably a seaman. It is unclear whether he died back in England or at sea.
- Gilbert Winslow** Gilbert 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.

The Mayflower Passengers: Biographies

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 Alden

John was born in about 1599 and may have come from Harwich, Essex. He was hired in Southampton as the cooper, or barrel-maker for the journey. He could have returned to England after the voyage, but he stayed and married passenger Priscilla Mullins around 1623. They had ten children. 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.

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

John Allerton may have been the brother of Isaac Allerton, from Ipswich. He was living in Leiden in 1616. He was a seaman. 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

Thomas was probably a member of the Leiden congregation, but very little is known about him. He was hired to be the master of the shallop (a light sailboat stored on board the *Mayflower*). 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.

The Mayflower Passengers: Biographies

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

William 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

Ely was hired to stay in America for a year. When his time was up he returned to England. Nothing more is known about him.

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 Plymouth Plantation, 1650

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