



MAYFLOWER FAMILIES ACROSS 12 GENERATIONS:

Finding the Stories of Your Family in Newspapers

Thomas Jay Kemp

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Cover illustration: *Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor* by William Formby Halsall, 1882.

Source: [Walking with Ancestors](#)

About GenealogyBank

GenealogyBank is a leading online genealogical resource from NewsBank, Inc. Genealogybank's exclusive newspaper archive features over 7,000+ small town and big city historical newspapers across the U.S. from 1690 to present day to help you discover and document your family story. You'll find births, marriages, engagement notices, hometown news, obituaries and much more! Search today and get a glimpse into the triumphs, troubles and everyday experiences of your American ancestors.

NewsBank, Inc. has been one of the world's premier information providers for more than 35 years. Through partnerships with the American Antiquarian Society, Wisconsin Historical Society and more than 3,000 publishers, NewsBank is uniquely qualified to offer some of the most comprehensive genealogical information available – and to provide new content regularly.

About the Author

Thomas Jay Kemp is the Director of Genealogy Products at GenealogyBank. Tom is an internationally known librarian and archivist. He is the author of over 45 genealogy books and hundreds of articles about genealogy and family history. Tom previously served as the Chair of the National Council of Library & Information Associations (Washington, D.C.) and as Library Director of both the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the New England Historic Genealogical Society. He began his career in 1963 as the Assistant to the Librarian in the Genealogy & Local History Room at the Ferguson Library (Stamford, Connecticut).

Table of Contents

William Halsall's Iconic Mayflower Painting.....	6
Documenting Mayflower Families for 400th Anniversary.....	9
Obituaries Link Generations & Contain the Stories of Our Lives.....	11
Tough First Winter for Our Mayflower Ancestors.....	17
Using Recent Obituaries & the Social Security Death Index to Find Mayflower Families.....	18
Harold Shaw – My Mayflower Cousin Many Times Over.....	22
John Alden.....	24
John Billington.....	29
William Bradford.....	33
William Brewster.....	34
Edward Doty.....	38
Francis Eaton.....	39
Edward Fuller.....	44
Samuel Fuller, M.D.....	49
Constance Hopkins.....	59
Stephen Hopkins.....	61
Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland.....	63
John Howland.....	66
Degory Priest.....	80
Thomas Rogers.....	82
George Soule.....	92
Myles Standish.....	93
John Tilley.....	96
Richard Warren.....	100
Edward Winslow.....	102
This Thanksgiving Season, Party Like a Pilgrim.....	106
What's the Back Story of Those Familiar Thanksgiving Hymns?.....	108
You Want to Be Prepared, Like Rose Briggs.....	113

William Halsall's Iconic Mayflower Painting

Marine artist William Formby Halsall's 1882 painting is a favorite of New Englanders and Mayflower descendants. What do we know about the painter – was he also a Mayflower descendant?



Painting: *Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor* by William Formby Halsall, 1882.

Source: [Walking with Ancestors](#)

William Halsall was born 20 March 1841 in Kirkdale, Lancashire, England, and came to America in 1858 at age 17.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations



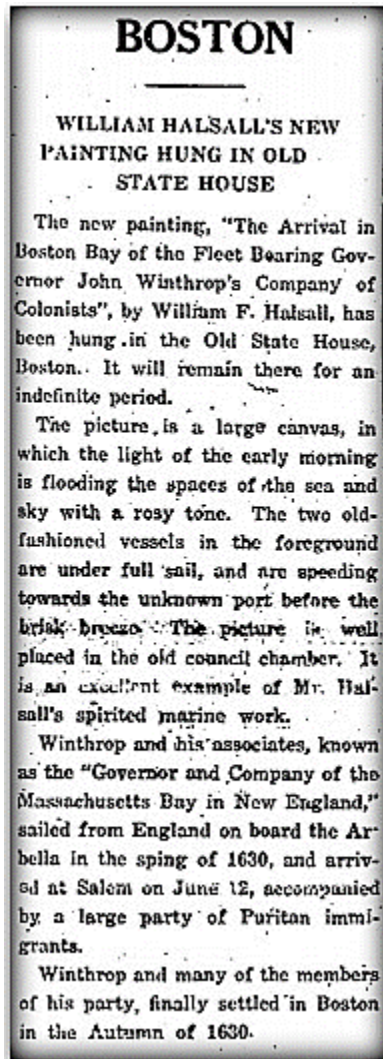
Painting: *Old Cottage, Kirkdale*, 1852. Source: *Liverpool Picture Book*.

During the Civil War, Halsall enlisted in the U.S. Navy. His naval experience clearly shows in the theme of his paintings.

Following the war, he married Josephine A. Nickerson (1841-1915) in Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts. He was naturalized a U.S. citizen on 24 January 1872 at the U.S. District Court in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts. He died 7 November 1919 in Winthrop, Suffolk County, Massachusetts.

While William was not a descendant of the Mayflower Pilgrims, his wife Josephine was. She was a descendant of Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins.

There are many newspaper articles in GenealogyBank about William Halsall, including this one published a few weeks after his death.



This article reports the hanging of Halsall's painting in the Old State House, Boston, and describes it:

"The picture is a large canvas, in which the light of the early morning is flooding the spaces of the sea and sky with a rosy tone... It is an excellent example of Mr. Halsall's spirited marine work."

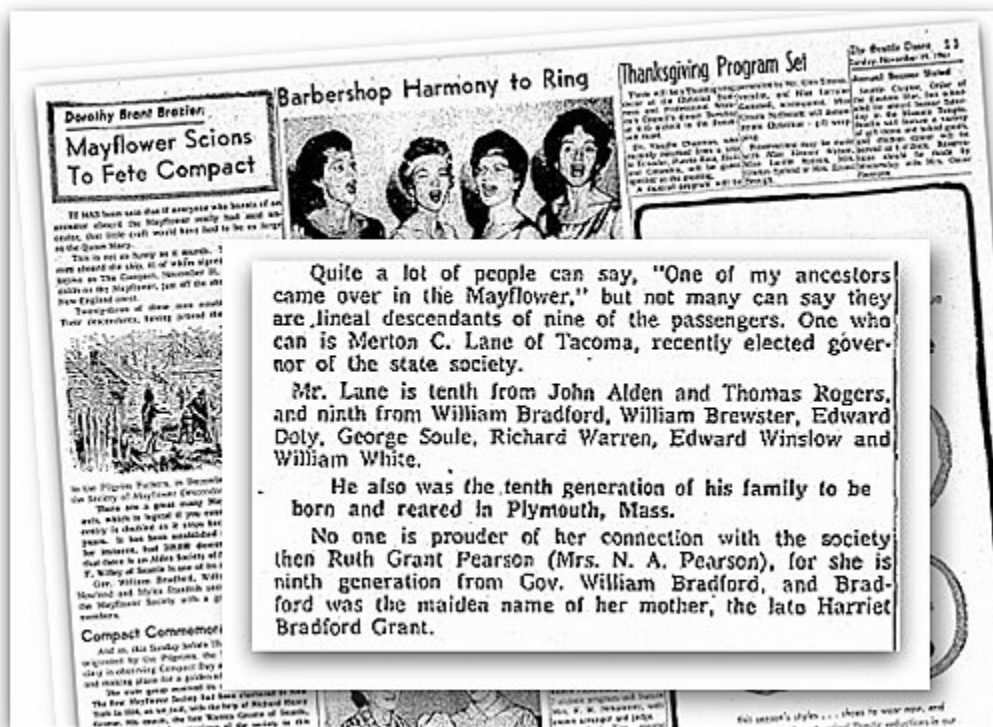
Source: GenealogyBank, *Momento*
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania),
15 November 1919, page 3

Let's Fill in Our Mayflower Family Tree for the 400th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Mayflower – We Can Do This

Using the old newspapers in GenealogyBank, I quickly realized that it is easy to document my Mayflower family lines using over 300 years of America's newspapers, from 1690 down to today.

I simply just started looking for them.

For example, I found another Mayflower descendant this week: Merton Chesleigh Lane (1893-1975), formerly of Tacoma, Washington. He wasn't in the large online family tree sites – but he is now.



Source: GenealogyBank, *Seattle Daily Times* (Seattle, Washington),
19 November 1961, page S-3

I spotted him because he was interviewed in the *Seattle Daily Times* when he was “recently elected governor of the state (Mayflower) society.”

The newspaper article noted that he was the “tenth (generation) from John Alden and Thomas Rogers and ninth from William Bradford, William Brewster, Edward Doty, George Soule, Richard Warren, Edward Winslow and William White.”

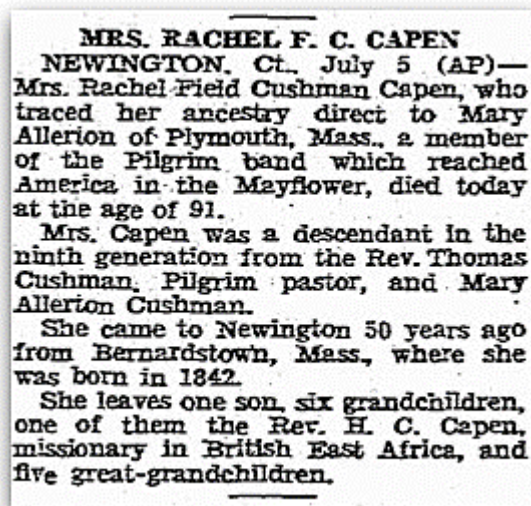
Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

Great – that makes us related via almost all of these Mayflower passengers. With that information, I added him to my online family trees and began the process of reconfirming and documenting his multiple lineages back to the Mayflower.

Pay it forward and take the time to search for Mayflower descendants in GenealogyBank, and document your discoveries in your online family tree sites. My goal is to document as many Mayflower descendants as possible in preparation for the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Mayflower in 1620.

I want to make it easy for all genealogists to discover their Mayflower roots – and GenealogyBank is helping me do just that.

I use GenealogyBank to find my distant Mayflower cousins to make sure that they are all included in my online family tree. For example, by looking in GenealogyBank I found my cousin Rachel Field (Cushman) Capen (1842-1933).



Source: GenealogyBank, *Boston Herald* (Boston, Massachusetts), 6 July 1933, page 13

I am finding thousands of obituaries that clearly state the relationship of the deceased to a Mayflower Pilgrim.

Armed with that information, I can enter the person in the well-known online family tree sites, verify the genealogical facts, and fill in the extended family tree. With the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Mayflower only three years away in 2020, it is my goal to find and document every cousin. I want to put them in the online family trees so that all genealogists can easily find the information I find.

Are you a Mayflower descendant? **Let's do this.**

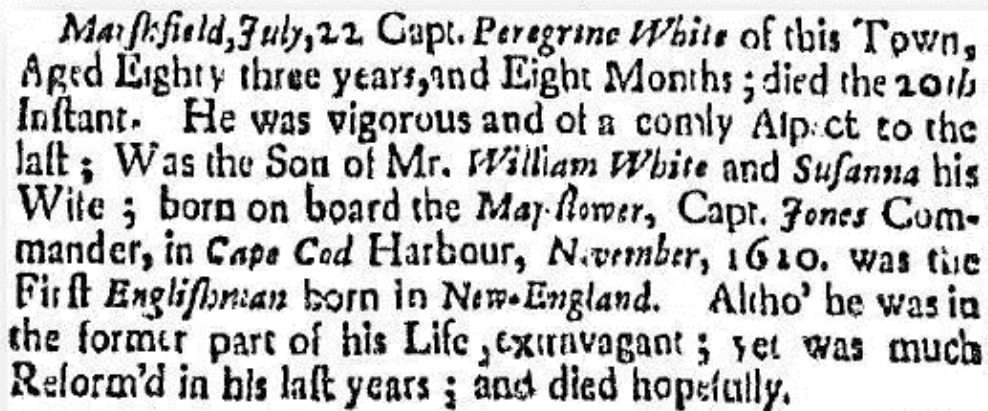
Obituaries Link Generations and Contain the Stories of Our Lives

Newspapers covered every day of the lives of our ancestors and the history that was unfolding around them. Obituaries contain the stories of our lives. The details and clues obituaries contain pull us in to start digging deeper and learning more about each person and the towns where they were born, lived and died.

Some are brief, some are lengthy – but one by one our stories are preserved and passed down to future generations in obituaries. A lot can be packed into just a few lines.

How long have obituaries and death notices been published in America?
Since paper and presses were available.

The earliest newspapers in America were generally two folded broadsheets that provided the reader with four pages.



Marshfield, July, 22. Capt. Peregrine White of this Town, Aged Eighty three years, and Eight Months; died the 20th Instant. He was vigorous and of a comly Aspect to the last; Was the Son of Mr. William White and Susanna his Wife; born on board the May-flower, Capt. Jones Commander, in Cape Cod Harbour, November, 1610. was the First Englishman born in New-England. Altho' he was in the former part of his Life, extravagant; yet was much Reform'd in his last years; and died hopefully.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Boston Newsletter* (Boston, Massachusetts),
24-31 July 1704, page 2

Have newspaper obituaries changed over the last 300 years?
Yes and no.

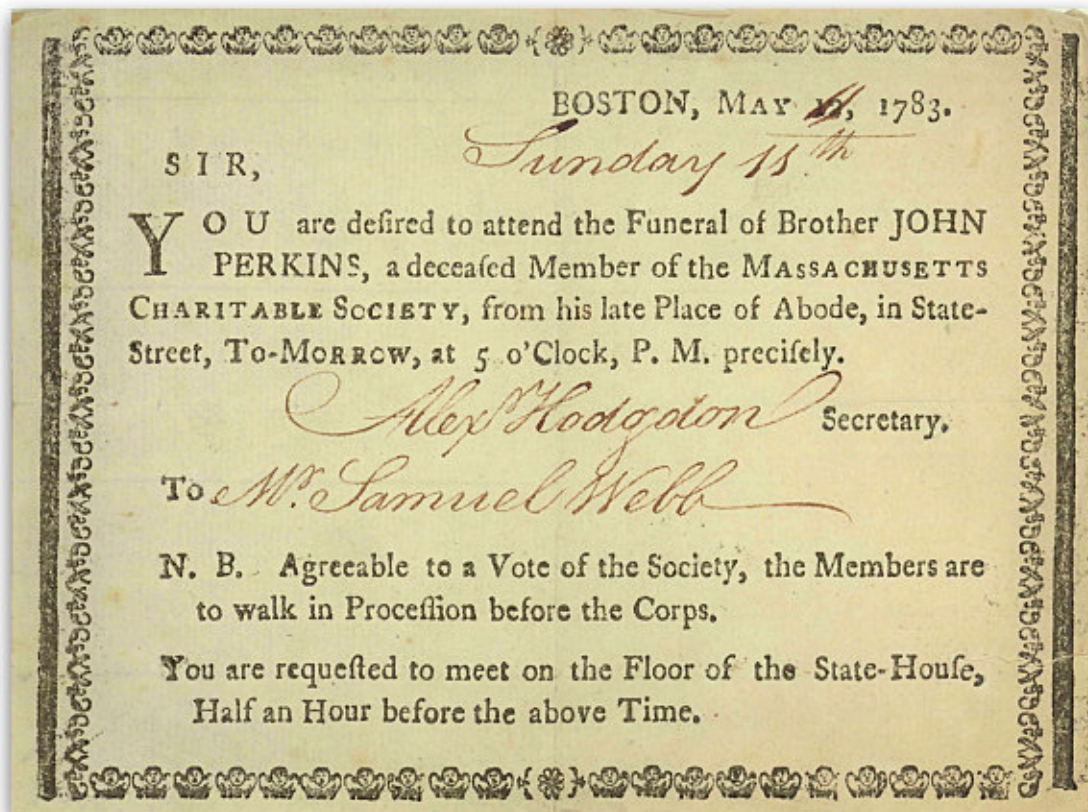
Newspapers have grown from the standard 4-page, folded newspaper to daily papers that can have upwards of 40, 50 or 60 pages. With more space and the ease of automated typesetting and computers, obituaries now can cover multiple column

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

inches in a newspaper – complete with photo and detailed mini-biographies written by the family. Obituaries have come a long way from the few lines written about Peregrine White to today.

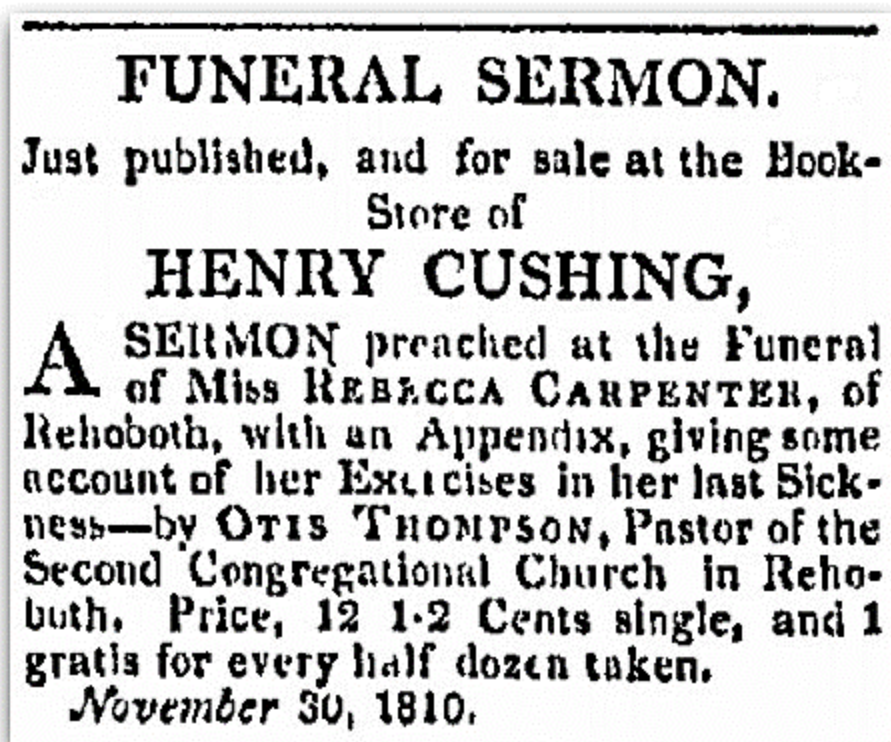
Not every issue of every newspaper has survived – but sometimes the additional printed material distributed at the time of a person's death and funeral has survived.

Here is an early example of a death notice card printed as a note card to alert friends to the death and pending funeral of the late John Perkins, who died in 1783.



Source: GenealogyBank

Another example of surviving material is this ad related to my distant cousin, 14-year-old Rebecca Carpenter (1796-1810). The issue of the newspaper that carried her obituary when she died 18 September 1810 has not survived, but an advertisement announcing the availability of copies of the funeral sermon preached at her funeral did.

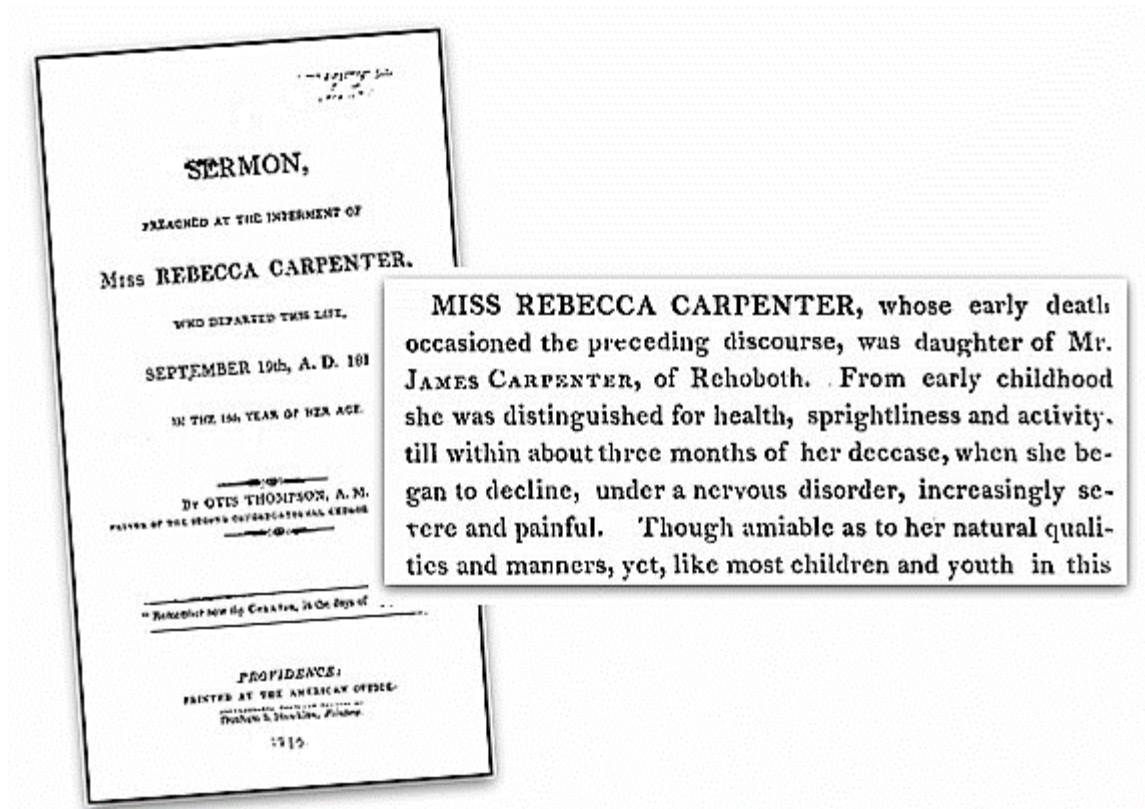


Source: GenealogyBank, *Rhode-Island American* (Providence, Rhode Island),
18 December 1810, page 4

As a courtesy and keepsake for the family and friends, funeral sermons were commonly transcribed, published and distributed – usually in very small press runs. This practice widely continued from the 1700s to the mid-1800s. Bookseller Henry Cushing, ever one to promote his stock, offered these sermons at a bargain rate – 12 ½ cents per copy – but if you bought 6 copies, he would give you a 7th copy free.

Remarkably, Rebecca Carpenter’s funeral sermon itself has also been preserved online. It gives us a brief glimpse of her short life.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations



Source: GenealogyBank. Thompson, Otis. A Sermon Preached at the Interment of Miss Rebecca Carpenter who departed this life, September 19th, A.D. 1810, in the 15th year of her age. Providence, Rhode Island: Dunham & Hawkins, 1810, 16 pages.

Published funeral sermons are the forerunner of the lengthy obituaries that we are used to today. While death notices in early American newspapers were kept brief because of space constraints, the invention of the linotype machine in the late 1800s allowed editors to expand the page count of newspapers – and obituaries expanded right along with them.

The sermons and eulogies given at funerals are still frequently published today as “memorials” and “In Memoriam” volumes. These generally follow the format of funeral sermons and include a brief biography of the deceased and the testimonial talks given at their memorial service.

It is also common to see lengthy biographical memorials published by professional and alumni associations. For example, Yale University has put online the obituaries of their graduates that were published in the annual volumes of the [Yale Obituary Record from 1859-1952](#). These detailed biographical and genealogical obituaries often give details about multiple generations of each person’s family.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

<p style="text-align: center;">OBITUARY RECORD OF GRADUATES OF YALE COLLEGE</p> <p><i>Deceased during the academical year ending in July 1871, including the record of a few who died previously, hitherto unreported.</i></p> <p>[PRESENTED AT THE MEETING OF THE ALUMNI, JULY 12, 1871] [No 1 of the Second Printed Series, and No 36 of the whole Record]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1794.</p> <p>ESKEIEL BACON, for nearly six years the oldest surviving graduate of the college, died in Utica, N. Y., 18 Oct., 1870, aged 94. In reply to a request made a few years since for a sketch of the events of his life, he wrote as follows:—</p> <p>"Ezekiel Bacon was born in Boston, on the 1st of Sept., 1776, the only son of the Rev. John Bacon, then late pastor of the Old South Church, and of Elizabeth his wife, who was the daughter of Ezekiel Goldthwait, of Boston, and widow of the Rev. Alexander Cummings, Mr. Bacon's predecessor in office. The family settled in Stockbridge, Berkshire County, Mass., and the son was educated and graduated at Yale College of the class of 1794; read law at Judge Reeve's law school in Litchfield, Ct., and practiced it in Berkshire; was a member of the legislature of Massachusetts in 1806 and 7; was a member of the House of Representatives of the U. S. Congress from 1807 to 1813, serving on the committee of ways and means, and during one year its chairman. He then held the office of Chief Justice of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas for the Western District of Massachusetts, until he received the office of Comptroller of the Treasury of the U. S.; which owing to ill health he soon after resigned, and removing into the State of N. Y., settled in Utica, where except holding the offices of member of the legislature for one year, Judge of the County Court of Common Pleas for two years, and member of the Convention of 1821 for revising the Constitution of the State, he has since resided in private life, having passed fully one-third of a long-pro-</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>tracted life in a condition of continued ill health and great depression of the vital and active powers of being. <i>'Sic itur ad astra.'</i>"</p> <p>He married Abigail, daughter of Dr. Reuben Smith, of Litchfield, Conn., and had five children</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1808.</p> <p>NOAH COE, son of Charles and Hannah (Bates) Coe, was born in Durham, Conn., May 24th, 1786</p> <p>He pursued his theological studies in part at Andover, in 1809 and 10, as a member of the second class which graduated from that institution. He was ordained July 3, 1811, and preached in Chester, N. Y., for two years. In 1814 he was installed over the Presbyterian church in New Hartford, N. Y., where he remained until 1835. In 1836 he commenced preaching in the 2d Congregational church in Greenwich, Conn., where he was installed May 23d, 1837. He was dismissed May 20th, 1845, and was not again a settled pastor, though he preached and labored almost continuously until over seventy years of age. From 1848 to 1854 he was engaged as a city missionary in New York city, and in Williamsburg, L. I. He then removed to New Haven, Conn., where he resided until his death. From Nov., 1854, to Feb., 1856, he served as stated supply of the Congregational church in Northfield, Conn., and for the succeeding year supplied the Congregational church at New Preston Hill, Conn. He died, suddenly, in Hartford, Conn., May 9th, 1871, aged 85.</p> <p>His wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Rev. Samuel Goodrich, (Y. C. 1793,) of Berlin, Conn., died in New Haven March 10, 1864. Two of his sons, Frederick A. and Rev. Samuel G. Coe, graduated at this college in 1837 and 1838 respectively, and died a little more than a year before him. His daughter, the widow of Rev. Chauncey Goodrich, (Y. C. 1837,) survives him.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1809</p> <p>GARRETT GARNSBY BROWN, son of David and Phileas Brown, was born in Bethlehem, Conn., in 1784</p> <p>He was prepared for college under his pastor, the Rev. Azel Backus, D. D., and at the Morris Academy, Litchfield; and entered College in the second Sophomore term. After graduation he taught in Milford, Conn., for one term, and then became a student in Andover Theological Seminary. He remained there until licensed to preach by the New Haven East Association of Congregational ministers, Sept., 1811</p>
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Source: *Yale Obituary Record*, 1871

A lot can be packed into just a few lines.

Like these few lines written about Alpheus and Orsey Harmon who were found "frozen to death on the prairie between Carthage and Nauvoo, Illinois" on 17 December 1842. Alpheus was described as a "preacher of Mormonism." He had been called to preach the Gospel in 1841, and on his return home in 1842 was trapped in a snow storm that killed him.

FROZEN TO DEATH.—Alpheus Harmon, a preacher of Mormonism, and his nephew, Orsey Harmon, were frozen to death on the prairie between Carthage and Nauvoo, Ill. on the 17th.

Source: *GenealogyBank, New Hampshire Sentinel* (Keene, New Hampshire),
28 December 1842, page 3

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

Sometimes those stories are recorded in newspapers published miles from where our ancestors lived. News of the Harmons' deaths was published in the *New Hampshire Sentinel* in Keene, New Hampshire – over 1,100 miles away.

Remarkable. Unforgettable.

No matter how brief the obituary, its details give us clues to more information about our ancestors' lives and even to their extended family tree.

Marilyn Guedesse was born in Minot, North Dakota, 31 March 1933, and died in Hamilton, Illinois, 20 December 2015. I never met her, her husband, parents or descendants – but when I read her obituary I knew she was my cousin.

How?

The family included in her obituary the fact that she was a descendant of Mayflower passenger Governor William Bradford – since he is my ancestor, that makes us cousins.

Rolette, N.D., Historical Society, and Midwest Party Girls Red Hatters. She was a Daughter of the American Revolution and a Mayflower descendent, having as her ancestor, Gov. William Bradford.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Daily Gate City* (Keokuk, Iowa), 23 December 2015

Obituaries are a great source for bringing together the branches of the family tree – not only by listing the current, recent generations, but by naming their ancient ancestors like this obituary did.

Tough First Winter for Our Mayflower Ancestors

Our Mayflower ancestors must have been a tough bunch, building the new Plymouth Colony during that first difficult winter of 1620-1621 when so many of them died due to illness and exposure.

It is recorded that 45 of the 102 original Mayflower passengers died during that first winter. The toll was especially hard on the women: of the 18 adult women who came over on the Mayflower, 13 died during that first winter (and another in May).

Their first Christmas in the New World was cold and miserable. They knew nothing about constructing log cabins, for this was a Scandinavian art and unknown to the English. Lacking sawmills, they put up huts of wattle and daubed clay, with thatch from marsh grasses serving for the roofs.

One of their first structures was a common house, but in January of 1621 it burned. The sick who had been sheltered in it were cast out in the cold, and much of their clothing was destroyed. By February, as related by William Bradford, practically the whole colony was sick. A few people escaped the disease, which was probably a compound of pneumonia and scurvy, and these few had, as Bradford said, to cook and clean up for everybody, doing "all the homly and necessarie offices for them which dainty and quesie stomachs cannot endure to have named."

It took all winter to unload the last colonists from the Mayflower out in the cold bay. By this time the number of Pilgrims had been cut in half. Only three married couples kept unbroken families. In April the Mayflower departed for Europe, leaving a heaving waste of waters between the Pilgrims and everything they remembered.

The first winter killed almost all of the older Pilgrims. By the summer of 1621 there were 51 colonists left. They were crowded into seven one-room cabins. The younger, tougher men of the colony took over. They knew nothing about agriculture as it would have to be practiced in a soil that, even to this day, is sour and thin.

**Source: GenealogyBank, *Augusta Chronicle* (Augusta, Georgia),
24 November 1966, page 6**

It wasn't easy – but they persevered.

Using Recent Obituaries & the Social Security Death Index to Find Mayflower Families

Lawrence E. Lincoln's life was filled with American history. He and his wife Shirley were both Mayflower descendants, he served in the U.S. Navy as a radar man on the USS Huntington, he attended Brown University, and he belonged to several Masonic chapters in New England.

Lawrence E. Lincoln, 80 WWII vet; Freemason; Mayflower descendant

YARMOUTHPORT - Lawrence E. Lincoln, 80, died after a short stay at Hospice and Palliative Care of Cape Cod in Sandwich.

A native of North Attleborough, he and his family moved to Yarmouthport in 1971. He was married to the late Shirley (Bell) Lincoln, who died in 1978, and who was a Mayflower descendant as well as a descendant of other old Cape families. During World War II, he served in the Navy as a radarman on the USS Huntington. A graduate of Brown University, he retired from the Bank of Boston as an international officer in 1985, after 34 years with its International Banking Group.

He belonged to several Masonic bodies, including Ezekiel Bates Lodge, Rabboni Royal Arch chapter and Bristol Commandery, and was affiliated with Howard Lodge in South Yarmouth. In 2002, he received the 50-year veterans medal from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. In his youth, he had been a member of the Order of the DeMolay in Attleboro, and later served as an adviser to the youth organization there and on the Cape.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Cape Cod Times* (Hyannis, Massachusetts), 25 October 2007

I discovered Lawrence's life story using [GenealogyBank's U.S. Obituary Search](#). This handy search tool archives obituaries from 1977 onward, and is a great resource for finding family obituaries, or, in this case, finding the stories about recent Mayflower descendants.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

I began by searching GenealogyBank using the keywords “Mayflower” AND “descendant.”

Enter your ancestor's name below and we'll search recent obituaries to help you learn more.

Last Name ?

First Name ?

Exact Search ☐ ?

Include Keywords ?

Exclude Keywords ?

☒ Date Range to ?

☐ Date

[Recent Obituaries Search Tips](#)

[Clear Form](#) [Begin Search >](#)

Search Recent U.S. Obituaries By State

Check your selection to search U.S. newspapers by state, city, or newspaper title.

<input type="checkbox"/> Alabama	<input type="checkbox"/> Montana
<input type="checkbox"/> Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/> National
<input type="checkbox"/> Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska
<input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas	<input type="checkbox"/> Nevada
<input type="checkbox"/> California	<input type="checkbox"/> New Hampshire
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/> New Jersey
<input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/> New Mexico
<input type="checkbox"/> Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/> New York
<input type="checkbox"/> Dist. of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina
<input type="checkbox"/> Florida	<input type="checkbox"/> North Dakota
<input type="checkbox"/> Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/> Ohio
<input type="checkbox"/> Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma
<input type="checkbox"/> Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/> Oregon
<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania
<input type="checkbox"/> Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rico
<input type="checkbox"/> Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/> Rhode Island
<input type="checkbox"/> Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/> South Carolina
<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky	<input type="checkbox"/> South Dakota
<input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee
<input type="checkbox"/> Maine	<input type="checkbox"/> Texas
<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/> Utah
<input type="checkbox"/> Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/> Vermont
<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia
<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/> Washington
<input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi	<input type="checkbox"/> West Virginia
<input type="checkbox"/> Missouri	<input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin
	<input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming

Map of the United States showing state abbreviations: WA, OR, ID, MT, WY, ND, SD, MN, WI, MI, IL, IN, OH, PA, NY, NJ, DE, DC, CT, RI, MA, NH, VT, ME, AK, HI, PR, TX, LA, MS, AL, GA, SC, NC, VA, WV, KY, TN, MO, KS, NE, NM, AZ, CO, UT, NV, CA, WA, MT, ND, MN, WI, MI, IL, IN, OH, PA, NY, NJ, DE, DC, CT, RI, MA, NH, VT, ME, AK, HI, PR, TX, LA, MS, AL, GA, SC, NC, VA, WV, KY, TN, MO, KS, NE, NM, AZ, CO, UT, NV, CA.

Source: GenealogyBank

Lots of obituaries matched this search, but Lawrence's caught my eye because it had so many other interesting details in the headline: he was a WWII vet, a Freemason, and a Mayflower descendant.

I did notice, however, that Lawrence's obituary didn't give me his exact birth and death dates, so I went back to [GenealogyBank](#), this time to the [Social Security Death Index](#) (SSDI). There, I entered Lawrence's information from his obituary.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

Search U.S. SSDI Records (1937–2014)

Last Name ?

First Name ?

Middle Initial ?

Exact Search ☐ ?

Include Keywords ?

Exclude Keywords ?

Date Information

Born Between year and year

Died Between year and year

Last Known Residence

City County State ?

OR ZIP Code

OR Non-U.S. Location ?

Social Security Number Details

State SSN Issued ? Social Security Number

[SSDI Search Tips](#)

[Clear Form](#) [Begin Search >](#)

Source: GenealogyBank

Sure enough, the SSDI pulled up Lawrence's record.

Lawrence E. Lincoln: Social Security Death Index (SSDI)

Name: **Lawrence E Lincoln**
State of Issue: Massachusetts
Date of Birth: Saturday April 23, 1927
Date of Death: Sunday October 21, 2007
Est. Age at Death: 80 years, 5 months, 28 days
Confirmation: Verified

Last known residence:

City: Yarmouth Port; Yarmouth; Yarmouthport
County: Barnstable
State: Massachusetts
ZIP Code: 02675
Latitude: 41.7045
Longitude: -70.2302

Source: **GenealogyBank**

Lawrence's obituary gave me his age and hometown, but now, thanks to the Social Security Death Index record, I now have his exact birth and death dates, as well as his last known residence.

Harold Shaw, My Mayflower Cousin – Many Times Over

Harold B. Shaw (1911-1975) was born in Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada – but he was my cousin many times over because of our mutual descent from multiple Mayflower passengers.

Since his family had moved to Canada several generations back on his line, I might not have found him.

But, thanks to his obituary published in GenealogyBank – I found him very easily.

SHAW

In Springfield, Feb. 23, Harold B. Shaw, 63, of Springfield, son of the late Bowman C. Shaw and Leto (Kinney) Shaw. He was born at Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada, July 13, 1911, and had resided in Springfield over 58 years. He was employed by American Tel. & Tel. Co. for 42 years. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Springfield, Appalachian Mountain Club, and Telephone Pioneers of America. He graduated from Technical High School, class of 1929 and was a member of Tech's hockey team. He was a direct descendant of 12 Mayflower Pilgrim families, and 12 signers of the Mayflower Compact of 1620: William Brewster, Isaac Allerton, Richard Warren, John Howland, Stephen Hopkins, John Tilly, Francis Cooke, Thomas Rogers, James Chilton, John Billington, Peter Brown, and Edward Doty. He is survived by two brothers, Hubert K. Shaw of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Walter P. Shaw of Jericho, Vermont; two nieces and a nephew. He was predeceased by another brother, Donald E. Shaw, in 1965. Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 3 p.m. from Dickinson-Streeter funeral home, 305 State St., Springfield. Visiting hours at the funeral home, Tuesday, 7 to 9 p.m. Please omit flowers. Memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church Memorial Fund, Springfield. Burial in Hillcrest Park Cemetery, Springfield.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Springfield Union* (Springfield, Massachusetts),
25 February 1975, page 23

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

His obituary states that:

“He was a direct descendant of 12 Mayflower Pilgrim families, and 12 signers of the Mayflower Compact of 1620: William Brewster, Isaac Allerton, Richard Warren, John Howland, Stephen Hopkins, John Tilly, Francis Cooke, Thomas Rogers, James Chilton, John Billington, Peter Brown, and Edward Doty.”

That’s great. I am also descended from each of those Mayflower passengers.

Armed with this obituary I can then retrace and document Shaw’s lines, re-confirming them and ensuring that our family tree is accurate, permanently recorded online and easily findable by future generations.

John Alden

Use GenealogyBank to Discover Your Mayflower Relatives' Stories

When Sonia Thresher Richardson (1926-2013) died in 2013, one part of her life story caught my eye: her commitment to her Mayflower heritage.

Sonia was a direct descendant of Mayflower Pilgrim John Alden, and that part of her identity meant a lot to her.

Mayflower was at the center of storied life

On the wall of her fourth-floor apartment in the Mayflower Retirement Community was a plaque verifying Sonia Richardson's heritage as a direct descendant of the Pilgrims who arrived on the Mayflower. Next to it was a similar plaque for her second husband, Harold, also a descendant of the Pilgrims.

Sonia traced her ancestry to John Alden, one of the featured players of Longfellow's poem, "The Courtship of Miles Standish." Harold, who died in 2005, was descended from William Bradford, second governor of the colony that gave us Thanksgiving.

Throughout their apartment, there was a model of the Mayflower ship, ceramic Pilgrim figurines, and Pilgrim teddy bears.

Richardson was in on the planning stage of the Mayflower Retirement Community when it was first conceived by a committee of the First Congregational Church of Winter Park. Before the retirement center opened in 1989, she named the main meeting room the Standish Center and the two wings Bradford Hall and Alden Hall.

Sonia Thresher Richardson lived at the Mayflower Retirement Community she helped create until her death on Feb. 1 of a stroke. She was 86.

"She worked on this thing for 15 years before she was a resident," said her son Donn Weaver, 66, of Hampton, Va. "Even before the first brick was laid, she said this is where I want to be."

In addition to her Mayflower heritage, Richardson was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the First Families of Massachusetts.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Orlando Sentinel* (Orlando, Florida), 25 February 2013

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

According to her obituary:

"Her second husband, Harold... was a descendant of William Bradford, second governor of the colony that gave us Thanksgiving... Richardson was in on the planning stage of the Mayflower Retirement Community when it was first conceived by a committee of the First Congregational Church of Winter Park... In addition to her Mayflower heritage, Richardson was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the First Families of Massachusetts."

I found Sonia's story by using the [U.S. Obituary Search tool](#) on [GenealogyBank](#). This tool searches obituaries from 1977 through today, and combined with GenealogyBank's [Historical Obituary Search tool](#) and [Historical Newspaper Archives](#), researchers can discover countless stories of Mayflower descendants over four centuries. I have been able to find many new relatives of my own by searching the names of my Mayflower ancestors in the GenealogyBank database.

To find Sonia, I navigated to the U.S. Obituary Search tool and, instead of searching for a particular name, I searched for the keywords "Mayflower" AND "descendant."

Enter your ancestor's name below and we'll search recent obituaries to help you learn more.

Last Name ?

First Name ?

Exact Search ☐ ?

Include Keywords ?

Exclude Keywords ?

☒ Date Range to ?

☐ Date

[Recent Obituaries Search Tips](#)

[Clear Form](#) [Begin Search](#)

Search Recent U.S. Obituaries By State

Check your selection to search U.S. newspapers by state, city, or newspaper title.

<input type="checkbox"/> Alabama	<input type="checkbox"/> Montana
<input type="checkbox"/> Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska
<input type="checkbox"/> Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/> Nevada
<input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas	<input type="checkbox"/> New Hampshire
<input type="checkbox"/> California	<input type="checkbox"/> New Jersey
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/> New Mexico
<input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/> New York
<input type="checkbox"/> Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina
<input type="checkbox"/> Dist. of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/> North Dakota
<input type="checkbox"/> Florida	<input type="checkbox"/> Ohio
<input type="checkbox"/> Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma
<input type="checkbox"/> Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/> Oregon
<input type="checkbox"/> Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania
<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rico
<input type="checkbox"/> Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> Rhode Island
<input type="checkbox"/> Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/> South Carolina
<input type="checkbox"/> Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/> South Dakota
<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky	<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee
<input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/> Texas
<input type="checkbox"/> Maine	<input type="checkbox"/> Utah
<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/> Vermont
<input type="checkbox"/> Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia
<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Washington
<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/> West Virginia
<input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi	<input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin
<input type="checkbox"/> Missouri	<input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming

WA MT ND MN WI MI NY MA RI CT NH VT ME PA MD WV VA NC DE DC
OR ID WY NE TA IL IN OH KY TN SC
CA NV UT CO KS MO AR MS AL GA
AZ NM OK LA TX FL
AK HI PR
National titles

Source: GenealogyBank

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

This search produced 2,348 records, meaning there are a lot of Mayflower descendant stories to be discovered! Undoubtedly, some of those stories are those of your own relatives.

2,348 Records in Recent Obituaries

(Results 1 – 10 of 2,348) [Refine Search Results](#) Sort by Best matches

Save this search and return to it later. [Save My Search](#)

- [Mayflower was at the center of storied life](#)**
Date: Monday, February 25, 2013
Location: Florida
Paper: Orlando Sentinel, The (FL)
- [Morton Saunders, 82; geneologist, civic leader, Mayflower descendant](#)**
Date: Wednesday, October 07, 1998
Location: Rhode Island
Paper: Providence Journal (RI)
- [Mayflower descendant spent her retirement teaching Pilgrim story](#)**
Date: Friday, October 28, 2005
Location: California
Paper: Sacramento Bee, The (CA)

Source: GenealogyBank

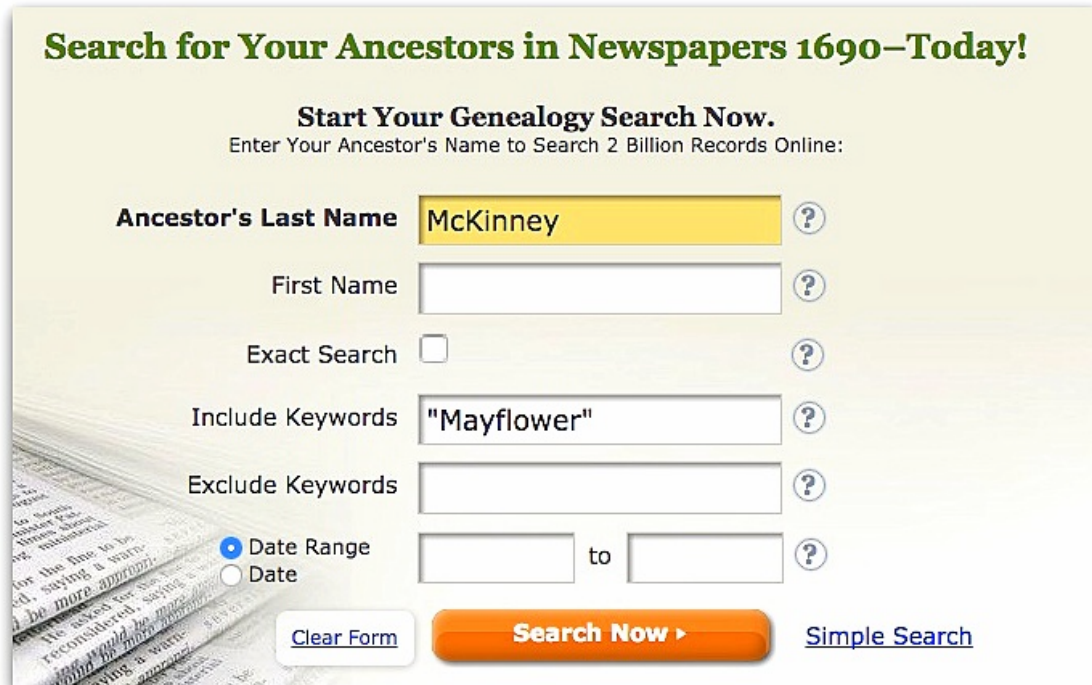
Genealogy Tip: Search GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#) for the first and last names of your Mayflower ancestor with the keywords "Mayflower," "Pilgrim," "descendant" or "ancestor." These searches can help you find stories about your ancestors and about your cousins – the descendants who came after them. You may even discover new relatives you didn't know you had.

John Alden

Discovering Cousins Using GenealogyBank's Newspapers

I'm related to my cousin Lola Hadden McDaniel via our two common ancestors: Mayflower Compact signer John Howland, and Texas Declaration of Independence signer Collin McKinney. I found her story using GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#), and was thrilled to learn about a cousin I never knew I had.

This week, I decided to do some digging to see if GenealogyBank could lead me to anyone else who was also a McKinney and a Mayflower descendant. I started by searching the Historical Newspaper Archives for the last name McKinney and the keyword "Mayflower."



Search for Your Ancestors in Newspapers 1690–Today!

Start Your Genealogy Search Now.
Enter Your Ancestor's Name to Search 2 Billion Records Online:

Ancestor's Last Name ?

First Name ?

Exact Search ☐ ?

Include Keywords ?

Exclude Keywords ?

☒ **Date Range** to ?
☐ **Date**

[Clear Form](#) [Search Now >](#) [Simple Search](#)

Source: GenealogyBank

This search produced six recent obituaries, one of them being Mary Ann McKinney Bussa of Nacogdoches, Texas.

Mary Ann McKinney Bussa

Funeral services for Mary Ann McKinney Bussa, 81, of Nacogdoches will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 6, 2016, at Grace Bible Church with the Rev. Kyle Easley officiating, and burial will follow at Oak Grove Cemetery. Mary Ann died Tuesday, March 1, 2016, and was born February 7, 1935, in Nacogdoches. She was the daughter of Claudine Woodward and Jack Raines McKinney. She graduated from Nacogdoches High School and the University of Texas where she was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha. She and Fred Lloyd Bussa were married in 1964 at Grace Bible Church. Her grandmother, L.W. McKinney, was a charter member of Grace Bible Church. Mary Ann found great trust in Isaiah

Source: GenealogyBank, *Daily Sentinel* (Nacogdoches, Texas), 3 March 2016

A woman of great faith, Mary Ann's grandmother was a founding member of Grace Bible Church in Nacogdoches. Mary Ann was married there in 1964, and she worshipped there all her life. She loved the Bible, particularly Isaiah, and her obituary included all of Isaiah 53.

Like Lola Haden McDaniel, Mary Ann was a descendant of Mayflower Pilgrims and of the Texas revolutionary McKinney family.

According to her obituary, she "illustrated the original Old Nacogdoches University cookbook titled 'Recipes Old and New Tried and True.'" It reports that she was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Colonial Dames, Mayflower Society, and the (John) Alden Kindred of America.

made intercession for the transgressors. Mary Ann was an accomplished equestrian, served as master of the Chireno Hound and Hunt Club, and directed the Nacogdoches Pony Club. She was one of the founders of the Nacogdoches Treatment Center Horse Show and shared her love of horses with special needs children through therapeutic riding programs. She illustrated the original Old Nacogdoches University cookbook titled "Recipes Old and New Tried and True" and was one of a founding member of the Friends of Historic Nacogdoches. She was a proud fifth generation descendant of the Republic of Texas and a member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames, John Alden Kindred Society, and the Mayflower Society. She is survived

Source: GenealogyBank, *Daily Sentinel* (Nacogdoches, Texas), 3 March 2016

What a beautiful legacy Mary Ann leaves behind.

Genealogy Tip: Searching GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#) for the last name of a branch of your family and a unique keyword can help you find new relatives with their own inspiring stories. Find your family now.

John Billington

The Many John Bullock's in My Family Tree

I am descended from Mayflower Pilgrim John Billington (1579-1630) through his son and daughter-in-law Francis and Christian (Penn) Billington.

Francis and his wife Christian had a daughter named Elizabeth Billington (1635-1710) who married Richard Bullock (1622-1667), and they in turn had a son named John.

After looking at their family tree, I noticed there were a lot of "John Bullock's" in that family – four in a direct line, to be exact. So, I decided to search for these men in GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#) to see what I could discover about this line.



Start Your Genealogy Search Now.
Enter Your Ancestor's Name to Search 2 Billion Records Online:

Ancestor's Last Name ?

First Name ?

Exact Search ☐ ?

Include Keywords ?

Exclude Keywords ?

☒ **Date Range** to ?
☐ **Date** ?

[Clear Form](#) [Search Now >](#) [Simple Search](#)

Source: GenealogyBank

The first result in this search was an obituary for a John Bullock who was born in Rehoboth and died in Bristol, Rhode Island. After comparing the listed birth and death information to my tree, I was able to match this obituary to the fourth (and last for several generations) John Bullock (1769-1876) in the line. This John Bullock was the 4th-great-grandson of Francis Billington.

John Bullock, aged 106 years, died in Bristol, R. I., on Sunday. He was born in Rehoboth, June 4, 1769. In 1770 his parents emigrated to New York State, where he resided until manhood. In October, 1800, he went to Bristol, where he has since resided. He was, through life, a very industrious, hard-working man, and very regular in his habits.

**Source: GenealogyBank, *Salem Register* (Salem, Massachusetts),
6 January 1876, page 2**

The most fascinating part about John Bullock's obituary was his age at death – an astounding 106 years old! Not a lot of people live to that advanced age.

Google puts the average lifespan for a person born between 1750 and 1800 at only 36 years old, meaning John Bullock's long life was extraordinary, even by today's standards.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations



**Photo: grave of John Bullock (1769-1876),
North Burial Ground, Bristol, Bristol
County, Rhode Island.
Source: [Find A Grave](#)**

Next, I refined my search by removing the keyword “Rehoboth” and restricting my search to just newspapers in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

This search turned up an 1869 *Sun* article announcing the 100th birthday of this same John Bullock. This article gave me a few more interesting details about John in his old age, such as the fact that he:

“...never drank a glass of alcoholic liquor in his life, and never had any need of or used spectacles. The old gentleman can see to pick up a pin or a needle from the floor as well as any young person.”

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

Mr. John Bullock of Bristol, R. I., one hundred years old on the 2d of last June, never drank a glass of alcoholic liquor in his life, and never had any need of or used spectacles. The old gentleman can see to pick up a pin or a needle from the floor as well as any young person.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Sun* (Pittsfield, Massachusetts), 19 August 1869, page 2

But what about the rest of the John Bullock's? This time I searched again for "John Bullock" in only Massachusetts and Rhode Island newspapers and restricted the years to 1750-1800.

This search returned a notice from the *Providence Gazette* about the estate of John Bullock (1714-1788).

ALL Persons having any Demands against the Estate of Mr. John Bullock, late of Rehoboth, deceased, are desired to bring in their Demands; and all Persons indebted to said Estate, are desired to make immediate Payment, to
JABEZ BULLOCK, Administrator.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Providence Gazette* (Providence, Rhode Island),
3 January 1789, page 4

Discover interesting details about your own family trees – over generations – by searching in GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#).

William Bradford

I Didn't Know Marilyn Guedesse – but, She's My Cousin

Marilyn Guedesse was born in Minot, North Dakota, 31 March 1933 and died in Hamilton, Illinois, 20 December 2015. I never met her, her husband, parents or descendants – but when I read her obituary I knew she was my cousin.

How?

The family included the genealogical information that she was a descendant of Mayflower passenger Governor William Bradford – and he is my ancestor. So, that makes us cousins.

Rolette, N.D., Historical Society, and Midwest Party Girls Red Hatters. She was a Daughter of the American Revolution and a Mayflower descendent, having as her ancestor, Gov. William Bradford.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Daily Gate City* (Keokuk, Iowa), 23 December 2015

Obituaries are a great source for bringing together the branches of the family tree – not only by listing the current, recent generations, but by naming their ancient ancestors like this obituary did.

GenealogyBank has Mayflower obituaries going back to the obituary of Peregrine White – who was born onboard the Mayflower in 1620 – down to the hundreds of thousands of descendants whose obituaries were published across the centuries right down to today.

Marshfield, July, 22. Capt. Peregrine White of this Town, Aged Eighty three years, and Eight Months; died the 20th Instant. He was vigorous and of a comely Aspect to the last; Was the Son of Mr. William White and Susanna his Wife; born on board the May-flower, Capt. Jones Commander, in Cape Cod Harbour, November, 1620. was the First Englishman born in New-England. Altho' he was in the former part of his Life, extravagant; yet was much Reform'd in his last years; and died hopefully.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Boston Newsletter* (Boston, Massachusetts), July 24-31 1704, page 2

Genealogy Tip: Use GenealogyBank's [Recent Obituaries](#) to find the descendants of your colonial ancestors that came over on the Mayflower, or that fought in the Revolutionary War.

It's a good way to link the generations.

William Brewster

Learning about a Pilgrim Ancestor's Life through Newspapers

My ancestor William Brewster (1566-1644) was driven out of Europe for his Separatist activities and for speaking out against the Church of England. He eventually immigrated to America aboard the Mayflower and was an original signer of the Mayflower Compact. In Plymouth, William was a minister and was regarded as an honorable man who cared for the sick and needy. In fact, there are few Mayflower pilgrims who have been so glowingly written about as has William Brewster.

I had been researching William with the keyword "Mayflower," but now I wanted to learn more about his life and reputation as a minister, as a Reverend in Plymouth Colony, so I refined my search in GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#) to include his first and last names and the keyword "Reverend."

Refine your search

Last Name

Brewster

?

First Name

William

?

Exact Search

☐

?

Include Keywords

Reverend

?

Exclude Keywords

?

☒ Date Range
☐ Date

to

?

Added Since

the beginning

▼

[Newspaper Search Tips](#)

[Clear Form](#)

[Begin Search ▶](#)

Source: GenealogyBank

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

In a 1916 issue of the *Boston Herald*, I discovered a transcription of the eulogy Governor William Bradford gave William Brewster upon hearing the news of his death:

"He was tender harted, and compassionate of shuch as were in miserie, and espetialy of shuch as had been of good estate and ranke, and were fallen into want and poverty, either for goodnes and religions sake, or by the injury and oppression of others; he would say, of all men these deserved to be pitied most..."

"About the 18 of Aprill dyed their Reverend Elder, and my dear and loving friend, Mr. William Brewster: a man that had done and suffered much for the Lord Jesus and the gospels sake, and had bore his parte in well and woe with this poore persecuted church above 36 years in England, Holland, and in this wildernes, and done the Lord and them faithfull service in his place and calling. And notwithstanding the many troubls and sorrows he passed throw, the Lord upheld him to a great age. He was nere fourskore years of age (if not all out) when he dyed."

PASSING OF THE BELOVED ELDER WILLIAM BREWSTER

Gov. Bradford's Tribute to One of the Great Separatist Leaders.

The intense personal affection in which the ruling elder of the colony was held by its leaders is reflected in a tribute of which a part is quoted. Toward the end of the eulogy it is stated of Mr. Brewster that "he was tender harted, and compassionate of shuch as were in miserie, but espetialy of shuch as had been of good estate and ranke, and were fallen into want and poverty, either for goodnes and religions sake, or by the injury and oppression of others; he would say, of all men these deserved to be pitied most." Considering Brewster's prominence and the large library of books and pamphlets which he is known to have left, it is rather remarkable that no published works or manuscripts of his have been preserved.

"Anno Dom: 1642.
"I am to beginne this year whith that which was a mater of great saddnes and mourning unto them all. About the 18 of Aprill dyed their Reverend Elder, and my dear and loving friend, Mr. William Brewster: a man that had done and suffered much for the Lord Jesus and the

gospels sake, and had bore his parte in well and woe with this poore persecuted church above 36 years in England, Holland, and in this wildernes, and done the Lord and them faithfull service in his place and calling. And notwithstanding the many troubls and sorrows he passed throw, the Lord upheld him to a great age. He was nere fourskore years of age (if not all out) when he dyed. He had this blessing added by the Lord to all the rest, to dye in his bed, in peace, amongst the mids of his freinds, who mourned and wepte over him, and ministered what help and comforte they could unto him, and he againe recomforted them whilst he could. His sicknes was not long, and till the last day thereof he did not wholly keepe his bed. His speech continued till somewhat more than halfe a day, and then failed him; and aboute 2, or 10 a clock that evning he dyed, without any pangs at all. A few howers before, he drew his breath shorte, and some few minutes before his last, he drew his breath long, as a man fallen into a sound slepe, without any pangs, or gaspings, and so sweetly departed this life unto a better.

"I should say something of his life, if to say a litle were not worse then to be silent. But I cannot wholly forbear, though haply more may be done hereafter. After he had attained some learning, viz., the knowledg of the Latine tongue, and some insight in the Greeke, and spent some small time at Cambridge,

and then being first seasoned with the seeds of grace and vertue, he went to the Courte, and served that religious and godly gentlman, Mr. Davison, diverse years, when he was Secretary of State: who found him so discreete and faithfull as he trusted him above all other that were aboute him, and only employed him in all matters of greatest trust and secreefe. He esteemed him rather as a sonne then a servante, and for his wisdom and godlines (in private) he would converse with him more like a freind and famillier then a maister. He attended his master when he was sente in ambassage by the Queene into the Low-Countries, in the Earle of Leicesters time, as for other waighty affaires of state, so to receive possession of the cautionary townes, and in token and signe thereof the keyes of Flushing being delivered to him, in her majesties name, he kepte them some time, and committed them to this his servante, who kept them under his pillow, on which he slepte the first night. And, at his returne, the States honoured him with a Gould chaine, and his maister committed it to him, and commanded him to wear it when they arrived in England, as they ridd thorow the country, till they came to the Courte. He afterwards remained with him till his troubles, that he was put from his place aboute the death of the Queene of Scots; and some good time after, doing him manie faithfull offices of servise in the time of his troubles."

Source: GenealogyBank, *Boston Herald* (Boston, Massachusetts),
21 August 1916, page 8

It is easy to imagine their heartfelt sadness at his passing, as he was such a good friend and neighbor to all.

The *Old Colony Memorial* newspaper gives us more detail about his dedication to serving God and his fellow men.

not be allowed a publication at home.—But at last removing into New England, all these things were laid aside, and he began a new course of living, in which he was no ways unwilling to take his part and bear his burden with the rest, living sometimes without bread many months together, having often nothing but fish and sometimes even destitute of that and drank nothing but water for many years together, yea, until five or six years of his death: and yet he lived (by the blessing of God) in health until very old age ; and besides that he would often labor with his hands in the fields as long as he was able. Yet when the church had no other Minister, he taught twice every Sabbath, and that both powerfully and profitably to the great satisfac-

Source: GenealogyBank, *Old Colony Memorial* (Plymouth, Massachusetts),
16 August 1823, page 1

This article describes Brewster's life after he came to New England:

"...he began a new course of living, in which he was no ways unwilling to take his part and bear his burden with the rest, living sometimes without bread many months together, having often nothing but fish and sometimes even destitute of that and drank nothing but water for many years together, yea, until five or six years of his death; and yet he lived (by the blessing of God) in health until very old age..."

He lived meagerly and was often nearly destitute, but he still labored with his hands as long as he was able, in addition to performing his religious duties:

"Yet when the church had no other Minister, he taught twice every Sabbath, and that both powerfully and profitably to the great satisfaction of the hearers, and their comfortable edification, yea many were brought to God by his Ministry, doing more in this respect in a year, than many that have their hundreds per annum, do in all their lives."

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

I don't know if I ever heard these details before about Brewster's life: his poverty and his faithful service in the ministry. I am proud to be descended from such a person.


Genealogy Tip: In addition to providing the vital facts about your ancestors' lives, newspapers can also help you know what kind of people they were – and help you gain a new appreciation of the difficulties they faced. Learn more about your own ancestors using GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#).

Edward Doty

William George Doty: Mayflower Descendant's Obituary

It's so handy when an obituary spells it out – and tells us that a person is a Mayflower descendant. William George Doty's (1852-1919) obituary did just that, referring to his ancestor Edward:

"Edward Doty, the first of the name whose record is obtainable, was one of the passengers on the Mayflower."



Justice Doty could trace his ancestry back to the arrival of the Mayflower. Edward Doty, the first of the name whose record is obtainable, was one of the passengers on the Mayflower.

Ancestor Married Mayflower Girl.

He married another passenger of that ship, Miss Faith Clark, who, with her parents, had sought a new home in America, and it was the Doty and Clark families who were among the leading founders of the Plymouth colony.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Bay City Times Tribune* (Bay City, Michigan),
13 January 1919, page 2

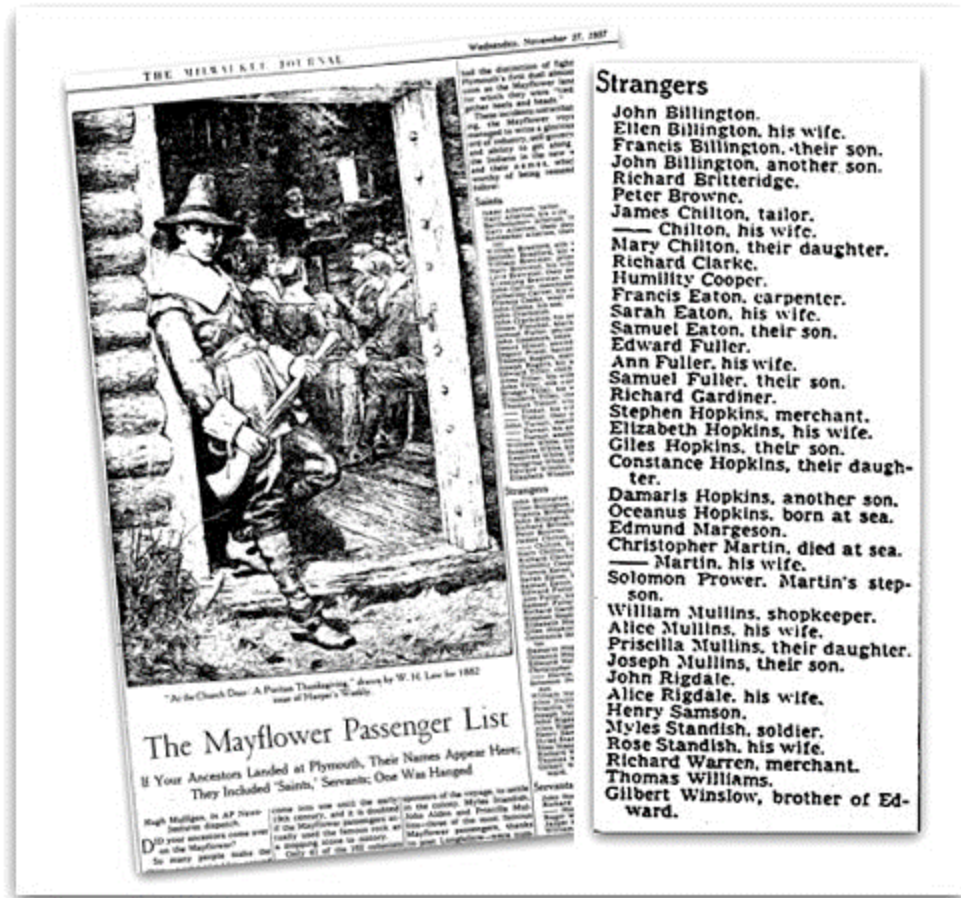
With that genealogy tip, all we have to do is chain William's line back to document his Mayflower heritage.

Remembering Mayflower Pilgrim Edward Doty, who died 360 years ago.

Francis Eaton

Surprising New Details about My Mayflower Pilgrim Ancestors

Like many of you, I am descended from some of the original Mayflower Pilgrims. One of these Mayflower ancestors is Francis Eaton (1596-1633), a carpenter, who came to the New World with his family in 1620.

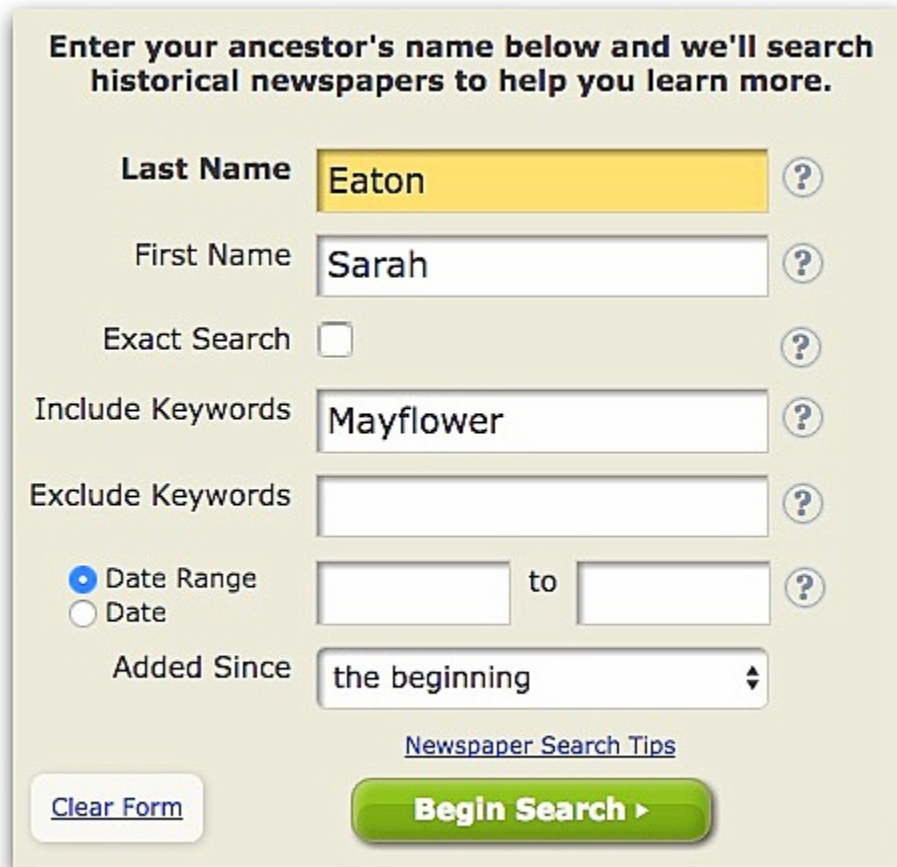


Source: GenealogyBank, *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), 27 November 1957, page 8

According to my notes, Francis is my many times great-grandfather. I already know quite a bit about him from history books and my own family history research, but I know much less about his wife who accompanied him aboard the Mayflower. In fact, all I know from my notes and other historical sources is that Francis's wife's name was Sarah (c. 1590-1621), and that she and Francis married in England around 1618 and had a son named Samuel before boarding the Mayflower, but very little else has been recorded about her.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

To see if I could discover any new details about my Pilgrim ancestors, I decided to research them using GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#). A lot has been written about Francis' life in the colonies, but I was looking specifically for articles that included both Francis and Sarah. I assumed that any records that mentioned Sarah would also mention Francis, so I searched for Sarah's first and last names and included the keyword "Mayflower" to narrow the search results down to just sources that mentioned the Mayflower Eaton's.



Enter your ancestor's name below and we'll search historical newspapers to help you learn more.

Last Name ?

First Name ?

Exact Search ☐ ?

Include Keywords ?

Exclude Keywords ?

☒ **Date Range** to ?

☐ **Date**

Added Since ▾

[Newspaper Search Tips](#)

[Clear Form](#) [Begin Search >](#)

Source: GenealogyBank

This search generated an interesting article from the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* about the original Mayflower Pilgrims.

Strangers
John Billington.
Ellen Billington, his wife.
Francis Billington, their son.
John Billington, another son.
Richard Britteridge.
Peter Browne.
James Chilton, tailor.
— Chilton, his wife.
Mary Chilton, their daughter.
Richard Clarke.
Humility Cooper.
Francis Eaton, carpenter.
Sarah Eaton, his wife.
Samuel Eaton, their son.
Edward Fuller.
Ann Fuller, his wife.
Samuel Fuller, their son.
Richard Gardiner.
Stephen Hopkins, merchant.
Elizabeth Hopkins, his wife.
Giles Hopkins, their son.
Constance Hopkins, their daughter.
Damaris Hopkins, another son.
Oceanus Hopkins, born at sea.
Edmund Margeson.
Christopher Martin, died at sea.
— Martin, his wife.
Solomon Prower, Martin's stepson.
William Mullins, shopkeeper.
Alice Mullins, his wife.
Priscilla Mullins, their daughter.
Joseph Mullins, their son.
John Rigdale.
Alice Rigdale, his wife.
Henry Samson.
Myles Standish, soldier.
Rose Standish, his wife.
Richard Warren, merchant.
Thomas Williams.
Gilbert Winslow, brother of Edward.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* (Milwaukee, Wisconsin),
27 November 1957, page 8

This newspaper article explains that, although many people believe that the Pilgrims came to America for religious freedom, the reality is that fewer than half of them had religious motivations – the others were hired to settle the colony by the Merchant Adventurers, the company that sponsored the voyage. Those that came for religious reasons were called “saints,” while those who were hired were called “strangers.”

Notice in the article, Francis and Sarah are listed not among the religious pilgrims, but among the strangers who were paid to settle the colony – meaning they didn’t come for religious purposes after all, but were hired to settle here.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

According to a notation in Francis' FamilySearch records, he was the ship's carpenter on board the Mayflower:

"Francis Eaton was a carpenter by trade and [historian Charles Edward Banks] believes that he was the Mayflower ship's carpenter, being in the employ of the Merchant Adventurers, financial supporters of the Mayflower venture."

Next, I tracked down Charles Edward Banks's book to find the passage the notation above refers to. A quick search on [Google Books](#) returned the passage in question.

FRANCIS EATON

FRANCIS EATON was a carpenter by occupation and the compiler suggests that he was ship's carpenter of the *Mayflower* employed by the Merchant Adventurers. The following entry from the Corporation Records of Bristol indicates that Eaton was from that city:

"John Morgan son of Edward Morgan of the City of Bristol, sailor, deceased, apprenticed to Francis Eaton of the City of Bristol *carpenter* and Dorothy his wife for seven (7) years, paying 4s 6d for the liberties of Bristol with two (2) suits of apparel and one suit 'telorum pertent ad artem le carpinter.' "

Marginal Note: "The Mr at New England."

(On the back of the indenture.)

"The Master consenteth at the end of the said term to convey to the apprentice and his heirs forever 25 acres of land lying in *New England* in America and also to give unto him 15 bushels of wheat he serving him truly the term of his apprenticeship. (*Bristol Apprentice Book, Vol. 1626-1640 fo. 23.*)"

As there was no other known Francis Eaton, carpenter, at that period in New England this must be considered a definite clue.

Source: Google Books. Banks, Charles Edward. *The English Ancestry and Homes of the Pilgrim Fathers*, (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2005), page 52.

Governor William Bradford listed Francis and Sarah Eaton, along with their son, toward the end of his Mayflower passenger list.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

3.	John Turner, and 2. Sones; he had a daughter came some years after to Salem, wher she is now living.	gine me to s since these b great work. he observed unworthy of the decc these person passed over years. It m come after; b
3.	Francis Eaton, and Sarah his wife, and Samuel their sone, a young Child.	
10.	Moyles Fletcher John Goodman Thomas Williams Vigerie Preist Edmond Margeeson Peter Browne Richard Britterige Richard Clarke Richard Gardener Gilbert Winslow	I will ther as they ly m Caruer first year, somer; also little boy of them of y desire mint provid n in Englane affor more Country m from thone in y west othors mas
1.	John Alden was hired for a Cooper, at South-Hampton wher the ship victuled; and being a hopeful young man was much	

Source: Massachusetts State Archives, Bradford Passenger List, page 2

Notice that following this entry is a list of men traveling alone – and then the entry for John Alden who “was hired for a cooper, at South-Hampton, where the ship victuled.”

Based on these findings, I can assume that Francis and Sarah were, in fact, “strangers” in the colonies rather than religious pilgrims. However, we can also safely assume they had one thing in common with the rest of the passengers aboard the Mayflower: a hope for a fresh start and a new life in America that was better than the one they left behind.

Genealogy Tip: Even if you think you know a lot about your Mayflower Pilgrim ancestors, GenealogyBank’s [Historical Newspaper Archives](#) can be a great resource for finding new details that your records may not already have, including information that may dispel preconceived ideas that you had about your early progenitors.

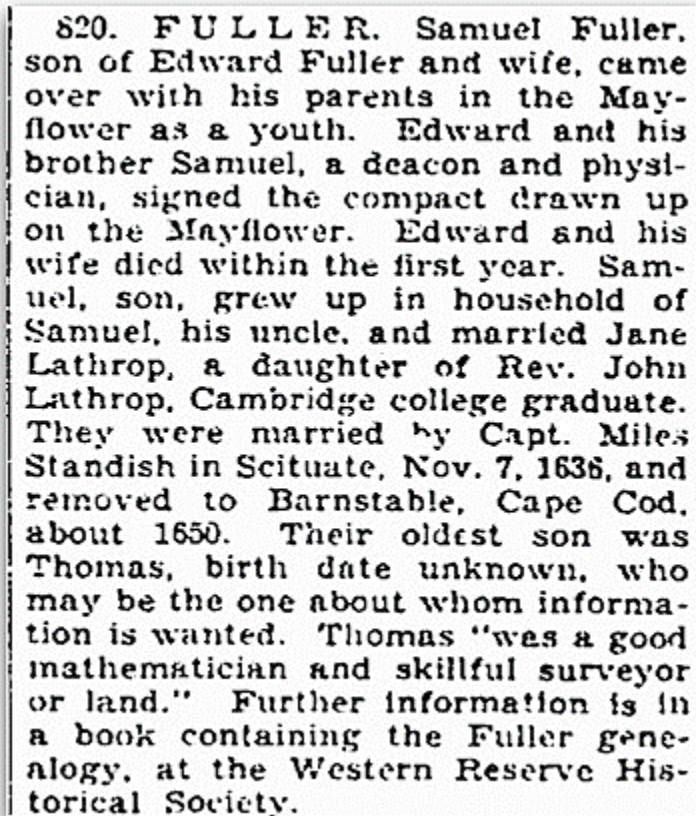
Edward Fuller

Using Close Relatives to Find All the Stories About Your Ancestor

Samuel Fuller (1580-1633), a physician, was accompanied on the Mayflower by his brother, Edward Fuller (1575-1621), Edward's wife, and their son Samuel (1612-1683).

Dr. Fuller's nephew Samuel had a difficult start to life here when – as a 9-year-old --his parents died within a year after arriving in America.

According to this article I found in GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#), Samuel and his brother Matthew were raised in the home of his Uncle Samuel alongside his cousins.



820. FULLER. Samuel Fuller, son of Edward Fuller and wife, came over with his parents in the Mayflower as a youth. Edward and his brother Samuel, a deacon and physician, signed the compact drawn up on the Mayflower. Edward and his wife died within the first year. Samuel, son, grew up in household of Samuel, his uncle, and married Jane Lathrop, a daughter of Rev. John Lathrop, Cambridge college graduate. They were married by Capt. Miles Standish in Scituate, Nov. 7, 1636, and removed to Barnstable, Cape Cod, about 1650. Their oldest son was Thomas, birth date unknown, who may be the one about whom information is wanted. Thomas "was a good mathematician and skillful surveyor or land." Further information is in a book containing the Fuller genealogy, at the Western Reserve Historical Society.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Plain Dealer* (Cleveland, Ohio),
4 September 1927, page 36

From this *Plain Dealer* newspaper article, I also learned that he married Jane Lathrop (1614-1678) and moved to Barnstable, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

I wanted more information about them; I decided to see what else I could learn about their life in Barnstable. A quick Google search of “Barnstable Cape Cod + Samuel Fuller” led me to an [ebook](#) on the history of New York that held a surprising amount of information about Barnstable and Samuel’s role in helping to settle it.

In 1639 the Rev. Mr. Lathrop and many of the members of his church removed and founded the town of Barnstable, probably at the time the most easterly settlement on Cape Cod. If Samuel Fuller and his young wife did not at once follow him thither, they did so in a few years. Captain Matthew Fuller, Samuel’s cousin, appears to have removed from Plymouth at about the same time, and together they bought of Secunke, an Indian, that portion of Scorton or Sandy Neck which lies within the town of Barnstable. Samuel also bought other lands, and lived in the northwest angle of the town in a secluded spot, where few had occasion to pass. He had been a constable at Scituate in 1641, and his name appears a few times as juryman, or on committees to settle difficulties with the Indians. He was the only one of the passengers of the “Mayflower” who settled permanently at Barnstable, and one of the late survivors of that company. He died October 31 (November 10), 1683, at Barnstable, Massachusetts; and was buried, if not on his own estate, in the ancient burial place at Lathrop’s Hill in Barnstable, near the site of the first meeting house. No gravestone now exists.

Source: Google Books. Cutter, William Richard. *Genealogical and Family History of Western New York*. (New York, New York), 1912, page 817.

According to this book, this Samuel and Jane (Lathrop) Fuller and her family were some of the earliest settlers of Barnstable:

“In 1639 the Rev. Mr. Lathrop and many of the members of his church removed and founded the town of Barnstable, probably at the time the most easterly settlement on Cape Cod. If Samuel Fuller and his young wife did not at once follow him thither, they did so in a few years... He was the only one of the passengers of the ‘Mayflower’ who settled permanently in Barnstable, and one of the late survivors of that company.”

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

Interested in learning more about Samuel's life in Barnstable, I turned back to GenealogyBank. I didn't have any luck when I searched for his name with the keyword "Barnstable," so I tried a new tactic: since Samuel's father-in-law is considered the founder of Barnstable, I searched for "John Lathrop" with the keyword "Barnstable" instead.

Start Your Genealogy Search Now.
Enter Your Ancestor's Name to Search 2 Billion Records Online:

Ancestor's Last Name ?

First Name ?

Exact Search ☒ ?

Include Keywords ?

Exclude Keywords ?

☒ **Date Range** to ?
☐ **Date**

[Clear Form](#) [Search Now >](#) [Simple Search](#)

Source: GenealogyBank

This search provided the detail I was looking for, reported in a *Dallas Morning News* article that described Samuel and Jane's life in Barnstable.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

Samuel left Plymouth and moved to Barnstable. There he built a house, "a small, plaine, pallizadse house," Dr. Lathrop, his father-in-law, called it. It was made of poles stuck in the ground, the space between being filled in with clay and stones. It was roofed with thatch, and floored with hand-sawed planks. It was a good house, as houses in the colony went, but Dr. Lathrop probably remembered more prosperous times in England.

Samuel gained a good-sized fortune, as his will and inventory, still in existence, show. His inventory sometimes lists his possessions in curious groups. For instance, it reads:

"Item a shirt Capps yarne sisers thrid," "Item in beese and hunny," "Item in sheeps woole feathers Tobacco baggs earthen Dish brimston," "Item iron potts tonges slice frying pan and Candlestick."

Samuel and Jane had Hannah, Samuel, Elizabeth, Sarah, Mary, Thomas, John and one other child.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Dallas Morning News* (Dallas, Texas)
3 January 1915, page 7

According to this newspaper article:

"Samuel left Plymouth and moved to Barnstable. There he built a house, 'a small, plaine, pallizadse house'... It was a good house, as houses in the colony went... Samuel gained a good-sized fortune, as his will and inventory, still in existence, show."

This article also discussed the inheritance his Uncle Samuel had left him, even though "Dr. Samuel had children of his own to give most of his possessions to."

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

Samuel had grown up under the care of his uncle, Dr. Samuel, who had settled prosperously at Plymouth. His uncle left Samuel some personal property, although Dr. Samuel had children of his own to give most of his possessions to. A clause in Dr. Samuel's will reads, "Item, I give to him my Rufflet cloake and my Stuffle suit I now weare;" in those days, when clothes were difficult to obtain, especially when they were Rufflet, it is doubtful if this bequest was not as eagerly welcomed by Sam as some of his uncle's more substantial gifts to him.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Dallas Morning News* (Dallas, Texas)
3 January 1915, page 7

Genealogy Tip: Searching the names of close relatives of the ancestor you're researching can provide new sources to help you fill information gaps, like searching for John Lathrop did for me in researching his son-in-law, Samuel Fuller. Find all of the stories of your family by casting a wide net when searching in GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#).

Samuel Fuller, MD

Mayflower Research Leads to the Discovery of a Distinguished Cousin

Researching my Mayflower ancestor Dr. Samuel Fuller has led me to many discoveries, one of the best being information about distant cousins who were also notable historical figures. One of these cousins in Dr. Samuel Fuller's line is the Rev. Homer Taylor Fuller (1838-1908).



Rev. Homer T. Fuller

Source: Google Books. *Granite Monthly: A New Hampshire Magazine*, Volume 40 (Concord, New Hampshire), 1908, page 323.

I discovered Rev. Fuller during a search in GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#) for our common Mayflower ancestor. Because Dr. Samuel Fuller was mentioned in the text, Rev. Fuller's obituary in the *Caledonian* came up as a result.

RECENT DEATHS.

Fuller.

An energetic, laborious and useful life was ended in the death of Rev. Homer T. Fuller at Saranac Lake, Aug. 14. Few men have left so strong and permanent a mark on this community as Dr. Fuller did during the eleven years he spent here. He came first from Andover Seminary in the spring of 1869, to complete an unfinished school year. The impression that he made during that brief stay was so pronounced that in August, 1870, he was urgently invited to take the principalship of the Academy. This call after due deliberation he accepted, and took the school in the spring of 1871, at a time when the pupils of the term preceding had numbered only 39. On the opening of the school year that fall the at-

Source: GenealogyBank, *Caledonian* (St. Johnsbury, Vermont),
19 August 1908, page 4

The article told me that Rev. Fuller was born in Lempster, New Hampshire, on 15 November 1838 and was “undoubtedly the most distinguished son of Lempster in educational work.”

Rev. Fuller attended the Andover and Union Theological Seminaries, graduated from Dartmouth, and served as principal of the Fredonia Academy and president of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Aside from his notable educational and public service accomplishments, the *Caledonian* also describes him as a gracious and kind person:

“We shall always remember Dr. Fuller as a Christian gentleman. His bearing was dignified and gracious. Something of the urbanity of former generations seemed to be surviving in him.”

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

We shall always remember Dr. Fuller as a Christian gentleman. His bearing was dignified and gracious. Something of the urbanity of former generations seemed to be surviving in him. His courtesy was unfailing and admitted no discrimination. He had self-respect and respect and considerateness for other people. He took pains to keep high and true ideals before his pupils all the time. In the school and church and community, as in the happy circle of his home, he was sure to be making himself of use, taking responsibility, ready with generous help for anything that would promote the best good of all.

Of the family, Mrs. Fuller resides with her sister in Fredonia; Henry Jones Fuller is manager of the Fairbanks Scale house at Montreal; Mary Breece Fuller is instructor in Smith College; Mrs. Anna Fuller Miller lives in Springfield, Mo.

EDWARD T. FAIRBANKS.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Caledonian* (St. Johnsbury, Vermont)
19 August 1908, page 4

I wanted to learn more about Rev. Fuller, so I searched for him in GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#).

Start Your Genealogy Search Now.
Enter Your Ancestor's Name to Search 2 Billion Records Online:

Ancestor's Last Name ?

First Name ?

Exact Search ☐ ?

Include Keywords ?

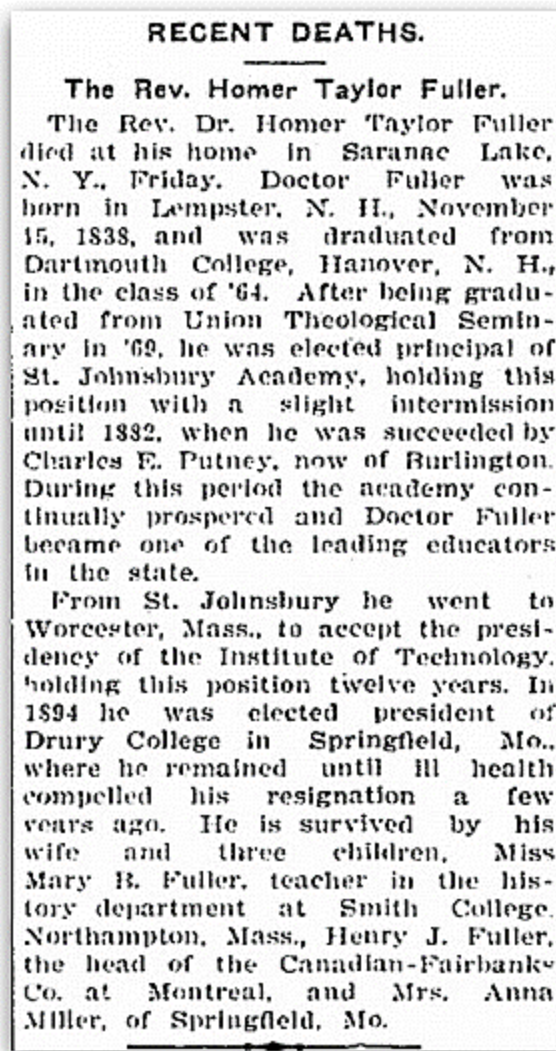
Exclude Keywords ?

☒ Date Range to ?
☐ Date

[Clear Form](#) [Search Now >](#) [Simple Search](#)

Source: GenealogyBank

From this search, I found that the *St. Albans Daily Messenger* also published an obituary for Rev. Fuller in which the writer called him “one of the leading educators in the state.”



Source: GenealogyBank, *St. Albans Daily Messenger* (St. Albans, Vermont),
15 August 1908, page 3

This article also gave me information about Rev. Fuller's children: his oldest daughter, Mary, was a history teacher at Smith College; his son, Henry, was the head of the Canadian-Fairbanks Company; and his youngest daughter, Anna, was married and lived in Springfield, Missouri.

I did a quick Google search and turned up this article in the *Granite Monthly* magazine which described Rev. Fuller as "one of the most noted educators in the country."

REV. HOMER T. FULLER, PH. D.,
D. D., LL. D.

Homer Taylor Fuller, one of the most noted educators in the country, a native of the town of Lempster, born November 15, 1838, died at Saranac Lake, N. Y., August 14, 1908.

He was the son of Sylvanus and Sarah M. (Taylor) Fuller. He was a direct descendant of Dr. Samuel Fuller of the Mayflower Company, and a grandson of Noah Fuller, a soldier of the Revolution.

Source: Google Books. *Granite Monthly: A New Hampshire Magazine*, Volume 40 (Concord, New Hampshire), September 1908, page 323.

This article also told me that not only was Rev. Fuller a descendant of Mayflower Pilgrim Dr. Samuel Fuller, he was also the grandson of a Noah Fuller (1758-1843) who fought in the American Revolution.

Being from such a distinguished line of American patriots, Rev. Fuller was surely very proud of his heritage. In fact, the *Caledonian* said the following about his feelings:

"His Puritan ancestry and traditions he held as a priceless heritage."

Genealogy Tip: Searching for your ancestors can be a great way to also discover other distinguished relatives that you may not have known about.

Samuel Fuller, MD

Discovering a Unique Family Relic through Newspapers

Many of us have family heirlooms, but not many of those heirlooms date back to the very beginnings of America. During a recent research session on one of my Pilgrim ancestors, I discovered a unique family relic that's been used by more than 10 generations of the family.

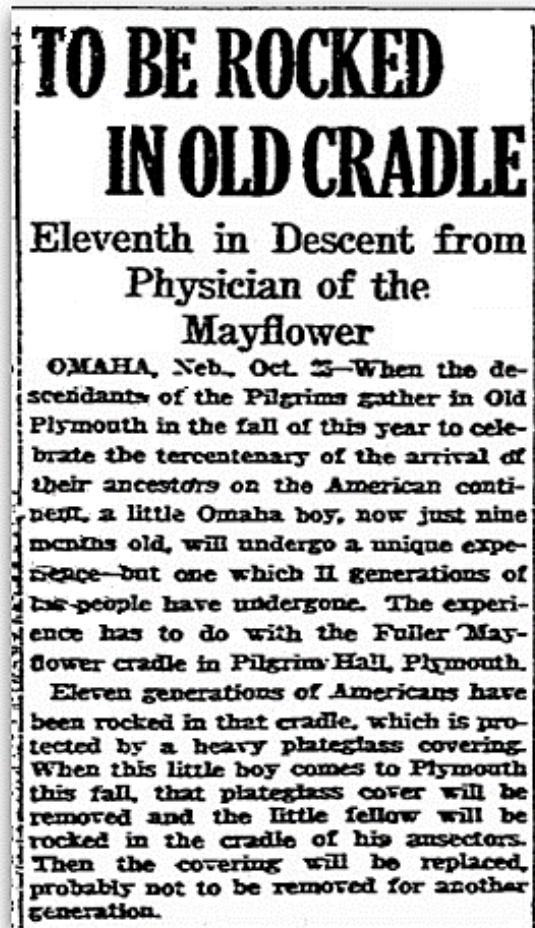
Samuel Fuller, M.D. (1580-1633), Mayflower Pilgrim and signer of the Mayflower Compact, was my 10th great-grandfather. I'm very interested in learning more about the descendants of these Pilgrim forefathers – so after examining Samuel's family tree, I decided to search GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#) for Samuel's grandson, Isaac Fuller I (1674-1727). Because "Isaac Fuller" sounded like a common name, I included the search term "Plymouth" because Isaac lived and died within the boundaries of Plymouth Colony.

The screenshot shows a search form titled "Refine your search". It includes the following fields and options:

- Ancestor's Last Name:** Fuller
- First Name:** Isaac
- Exact Search:** ☐
- Include Keywords:** Plymouth
- Exclude Keywords:** (empty field)
- Date Range:** ☒ (selected)
- Date:** ☐
- Buttons:** Clear Form, Search Now >

Source: GenealogyBank

This search brought up an interesting discovery: a *Boston Herald* article about young Thomas Porter, who, as a descendant of Mayflower passenger Samuel Fuller, was to be rocked in the historic cradle that the Fuller family has been using since colonial times.



Source: GenealogyBank, *Boston Herald* (Boston, Massachusetts),
24 October 1920, page 52

According to this article:

"Eleven generations of Americans have been rocked in that cradle, which is protected by a heavy plateglass covering. When this little boy comes to Plymouth this fall, that plateglass cover will be removed and the little fellow will be rocked in the cradle of his ancestors. Then the covering will be replaced, probably not to be removed for another generation."

The article reports that Thomas was the first in 11 generations to be born outside of the Plymouth, Massachusetts, area. Before him, his great-grandfather Deacon Henry Noyes of Abington, Massachusetts, was the last family member to be rocked in the cradle.

This article also provides another interesting detail: the [Pilgrim Hall Museum](#) must allow any descendant of Samuel Fuller to rock their child in the cradle if requested.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

But one of the conditions under which it was placed in the hall is that when any descendant of Dr. Samuel Fuller comes to Plymouth and asks to be rocked in the cradle, that request shall be granted and, at the expense of the association, an expert glass worker shall be called, the case removed and the applicant rocked in the cradle of his ancestors.

It is under that contract that Tom-Tom Porter is to be rocked in the Pilgrim cradle.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Boston Herald* (Boston, Massachusetts), 24 October 1920, page 52

Apparently, the news of young Tom Porter's cradle ride traveled far, because the next search result I found was another account about his cradle ride – published in the *Seattle Daily Times*.

PLYMOUTH, Mass., Monday, Nov. 22.—There is a small lad in Omaha, Neb., who, when he grows up, will be able to boast that he was rocked in the cradle in which his ancestor 11 generations back was also lulled to sleep. The boy is now nine months of age—Tom, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Porter. He will be the first one of his line who has been born outside of the precincts of Old Plymouth Colony, for the tenth generation had only moved as far as Abington, about 20 miles north, a progression of a score of miles in almost three centuries.

The cradle is reposing in a glass-sided case in Pilgrim Hall, the depository of relics of the Mayflower Pilgrims and the home of the Pilgrim Society of Plymouth. Dr. Samuel Fuller, physician of the Mayflower company, brought the cradle with him from England and it is supposed was himself sent to the land of Winken, Blinken and Nod many times in it, and 11 generations have been rocked in it. The second Samuel Fuller slept in it, and after him Dr. Isaac Fuller, in the third generation, and later a physician of Middleboro slumbered in its capacious quarters.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Seattle Daily Times* (Seattle, Washington), 22 November 1920, page 5

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

According to this newspaper article, the cradle didn't originate in the colonies – it was brought with Dr. Samuel Fuller from his home in England:

“Dr. Samuel Fuller, physician of the Mayflower company, brought the cradle with him from England and it is supposed was himself sent to the land of Winken, Blinken and Nod many times in it, and 11 generations have been rocked in it. The second Samuel Fuller slept in it, and after him Dr. Isaac Fuller, in the third generation, and later a physician of Middleboro slumbered in its capacious quarters.”

I was curious whether this legend about the cradle having been brought from England was true, so I checked with the Pilgrim Hall Museum, where the cradle is kept.

It turns out they are not sure about the origins of this cradle. It might have origins in England, but it is also possible that it was made in the 1600s in Duxbury, Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

Fuller Cradle

Material: Maple and white pine

Probably made in Duxbury, MA, 1680-1720

Descended in the family of Samuel Fuller

The open work at the front of this cradle made it possible for the mother to see a sleeping baby from almost any position. The construction of this cradle is interesting. It looks like joined work. Actually, it is made of solid pine boards with strips of wood nailed on to imitate joined panels. The cradle may have been made by a carpenter, rather than a joiner.

The shape of the turnings on the tops of the rear posts is similar to turnings seen on furniture found in Duxbury.

Source: Pilgrim Hall Museum

Are you also a descendant of Dr. Samuel Fuller?

And if so, were you rocked in the Fuller Family Cradle?

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations



Photo: Fuller Family Cradle. Source: Pilgrim Hall Museum.

Find your family's stories and relics by searching for them in GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#).

Constance Hopkins

Descendant of Mayflower Pilgrim Constance Hopkins Shares Her Heritage

It's that time of year when families reflect on their Pilgrim heritage.

Pilgrim stock

S.C. family trees touch the Mayflower

■ Symbolism of the day, 3A
■ Turkey is stuff of myth, 18A
By FRAN H. ZUPAN
Staff Writer

It's been 372 years since Kathy Handel's ancestors came over on the Mayflower, but their voyage of hardship and difficulties in the New World still inspire her.

"When some things have been tough for me, I've thought back and realized my family gets in there and fights," Handel said. "We don't give up. We don't quit."

Handel, a guidance counselor at Spring Valley High School, is one of about 250 adult members of the Soci-

ety of Mayflower Descendants in the State of South Carolina.

For the past few years, she has told students the Pilgrim story as Constance Hopkins, her ancestor who came over on the Mayflower at age 15.

Eighty of the 102 Mayflower passengers spent the 65-day voyage crowded into a room about 24 feet by 108 feet, she told a class at Wilson Vocational Center last week.

These Pilgrims slept in small bunks along the sides of the lower deck, she said. They ate dried foods

See Pilgrims, 18A



Jim Arnold/The State

At Wilson Vocational School, Kathy Handel portrays Constance Hopkins, who crossed on the Mayflower.

Source: GenealogyBank, *State* (Columbia, South Carolina), 26 November 1992, page 1

Kathy Handel likes to do just that. In fact, she regularly shares her heritage with others. Dressed as her ancestor, Mayflower passenger Constance Hopkins (1606-1677), Handel is seen in this newspaper photo speaking at the Wilson Vocational School in South Carolina.

Constance Hopkins was the daughter of Stephen Hopkins, also a Mayflower passenger. Her stepbrother Oceanus Hopkins (1620-1626) was born on the Mayflower during the voyage to America.

This newspaper article also reports that Marylen Smith Jackson of Williston, South Carolina, "is related to a dozen" Mayflower passengers. She told the *State* newspaper that "she has had fun as a Mayflower descendant. Last summer she visited Plimoth Plantation, where she talked to actors portraying life as her ancestors knew it."

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations



Source: GenealogyBank, State (Columbia, South Carolina),
26 November 1992, page 18A

Stephen Hopkins

New Discovery About Mayflower Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins

Did you know Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins vacationed in Bermuda before he came over on the Mayflower? I didn't know that!



Source: GenealogyBank, *Boston Herald* (Boston, Massachusetts),
16 June 1957, page 61

Well, it wasn't exactly a vacation – but Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins lived on the island of Bermuda for over a year, from 1609 to 1610.

Eleven years before he left England headed for America in 1620 on board the Mayflower, Hopkins left 2 June 1609 on the ship Sea Venture headed for Jamestown with supplies and a new governor for the colony. The Sea Venture hit a storm on 24 July 1609 and was shipwrecked off of Bermuda. Hopkins and others on board survived and remained for over a year on Bermuda while building a new seaworthy boat that they could use to complete their trip to Jamestown. Soon after he arrived in Jamestown, the colony was evacuated back to England.

Stephen Hopkins picked up critical skills and experience on that ill-fated 1609 voyage. He was one of the few Mayflower Pilgrims with experience at sea. He had survived a shipwreck, and knew what it took to be resourceful in extreme conditions in order to build a seaworthy ship to continue the voyage to America.

Perhaps the most critical skill he learned in 1609-1610 was to speak multiple Native American languages. He gained invaluable experience in getting to know

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

and work with Native Americans. This experience would be pivotal 10 years later when the Pilgrims worked with Squanto and the local Native Americans in Plymouth Colony.

Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins liked his experience in Bermuda and Jamestown so much that he really wanted to go back to America.

So, in 1620 he left along with 130 +/- other passengers and crew on the Mayflower to make the 66-day trip to America. It is estimated that today there are as many as 30 million Americans who are Mayflower descendants, although most are unaware of their ancestral tie to the founding of the country.

They say there are no accidents or coincidences in life – that somehow seeming coincidences actually were critical to the way history turned out. One of those fortuitous coincidences was that Squanto and other members of his tribe were brought to England where they were trained in English to become interpreters. His language skills and life experience in England were critical to the success of the Pilgrim colony, and helped frame the 50 years that followed of relative peace between the colonists and the Native Americans. Not many people have such a critical impact on the life and history of other people during their own lifetimes, let alone an impact that we revere to this day.

You can learn so much about your family in GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#).

Historical newspapers contain the stories and details of the lives of every one of our ancestors, many of them lost for generations.

Dig in and find your family's stories – don't let them remain lost to the family.

Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland

Mayflower Pilgrim Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland: Orphan, Survivor, Foremother

Mayflower Pilgrim Elizabeth Tilley (1607-1687), along with her parents John and Joan (Hurst) Tilley, came over on the Mayflower. Elizabeth was one of five children, but was the only one of her siblings to accompany her parents onboard the Mayflower.

She was born 410 years ago.

According to MayflowerHistory.com:

“Elizabeth Tilley came on the Mayflower, at the age of about thirteen, with her parents John and Joan (Hurst) Tilley. Her parents, and her aunt and uncle Edward and Agnes Tilley, all died the first winter, leaving her orphaned in the New World. She soon married, about 1624 or 1625, to fellow Mayflower passenger John Howland, who had come as a manservant, or apprentice, to Governor John Carver who died in April 1621.”

A survivor in her own right, Elizabeth became the mother of 10 children, and many Americans (me included) can trace their family lines back to this strong woman. Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland is my 10th great-grandmother.

So, her descendants have at least four Mayflower passenger ancestors: herself, her parents and her husband John Howland.

It is painful to see this 1920s spin in the *Omaha World-Herald* stating that “since his [John Tilley’s] sole survivor was his daughter, Elizabeth, his descendants generally reckon the line as headed by her husband, John Howland.”

Brutal.

Mrs. Jones' eight ancestors appear in three distinct lines, headed by Richard Warren, Edward Fuller and John Howland, passengers on the Mayflower and signers of the Mayflower compact--the very first constitution ever evolved in the world's history. The other five ancestors of Mrs. Jones who were on the Mayflower were Edward Fuller's wife and his son, Samuel Fuller, John Howland's future wife, Elizabeth Tilley and her parents, John Tilley and Bridget van der Velde Tilley. John Tilley was likewise a signer of the compact, but since his sole survivor was his daughter, Elizabeth, his descendants generally reckon the line as headed by her husband, John Howland.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Omaha World-Herald* (Omaha, Nebraska),
21 November 1920, page 43

She was a strong woman.

According to FamilySearch, Elizabeth died at her daughter's home in Swansea, Bristol, Massachusetts, on 31 December 1687, but her story doesn't end there. Her legacy is carried on by many notable descendants, including U.S. President George H.W. Bush and his son President George W. Bush, and poets Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

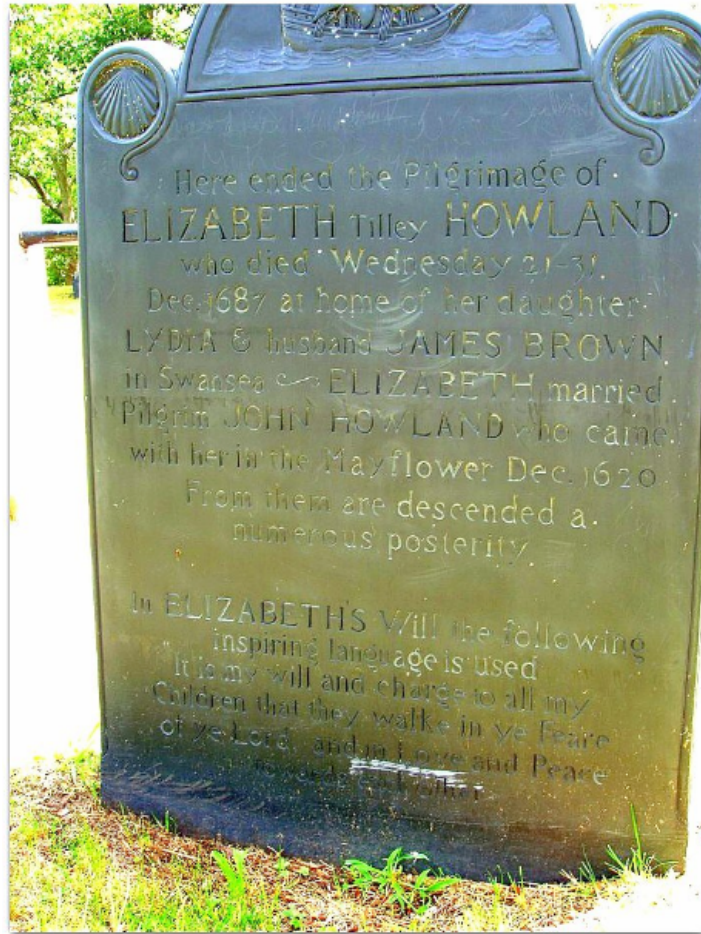


Photo: Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland's grave in Ancient Little Neck Cemetery, Providence, Rhode Island. Source: Find-a-Grave.

The inscription on her tombstone reads:

"Here ends the pilgrimage of Elizabeth Tilley Howland who died Wednesday 31 December 1687 at home of her daughter Lydia & husband James Brown in Swansea. Elizabeth married Pilgrim John Howland who came with her in the Mayflower December 1620. From them are descended a numerous posterity."

In Elizabeth's will she gave this inspiring counsel to her children and descendants:

"It is my will and charge to all my Children that they walk in the fear of the Lord and in Love and Peace toward each other."

Powerful.

I'm honored to have her as one of my Mayflower ancestors.

John Howland

Mayflower Genealogy: Use Obituaries to Find Interesting Details about Relatives

Obituaries may be morbid, but they can be a great way to learn more about our ancestors. Oftentimes, you'll find fascinating details about your relatives like interesting hobbies, causes of death – or in the case of a [GenealogyBank](#) obituary I recently came across, a detailed family history.

I was researching my 11th great-grandfather, Pilgrim John Howland (1592-1672), who immigrated to America aboard the *Mayflower*. Though John died in 1672 and GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#) only go back as far as 1690, I knew newspaper records were likely the best source for finding additional information about what happened to John's descendants after he arrived in America.

I began by searching the [Massachusetts Newspaper Archives](#) for "John Howland."

Refine your search

Last Name

Howland

?

First Name

John

?

Exact Search

☐

?

Include Keywords

?

Exclude Keywords

?

☒ Date Range
☐ Date

to

?

Added Since

the beginning

⬆⬇⬆

[Newspaper Search Tips](#)

[Clear Form](#)

[Begin Search ▶](#)

Source: GenealogyBank

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

This result, an obituary from the *National Aegis*, was a good example of how useful obituaries can be. This detailed death notice for a Captain John Howland (1757-1843) has the added bonus of tracing his genealogy back five generations to my 11th great-grandfather, Mayflower Pilgrim John Howland.

In Conway, June 18, Captain John Howland, in the eighty seventh year of his age. Capt. Howland was a descendant in the fifth generation of John Howland and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Gov. Carver, who arrived at Plymouth in the ship called the Mayflower, Dec. 16, Old Style, 1620; and was born March 31, 1757. He was the eldest son of Job Howland, who was born June 17, 1726. Job Howland was the youngest son of John Howland who was born December 31, 1674, who was the youngest son of John Howland who was born about the year 1630, who was the eldest son of John Howland the 'Pilgrim,' who was born in the year 1592.—

**Source: GenealogyBank, *National Aegis* (Worcester, Massachusetts),
12 July 1843, page 3**

With the information from this obituary, I was able to trace how I'm related to another John Howland (1802-1846) in my family tree (pictured below), but I also now have the birth dates and names of his father and grandfathers going five generations back, as well as the name of Pilgrim John Howland's father-in-law, Governor Carver.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations



Portrait: Capt. John Howland (1802-1846), by an unknown artist. Credit: New Bedford Whaling Museum <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/199706564696556092/>; Pinterest.

Genealogy Tip: Beyond just confirming birth and death dates, obituaries can be useful for finding other information about your family history, including a multi-generational family tree with the names of parents and grandparents, as well as other relatives.

John Howland

Mayflower Descendant Lola McDaniel, the Daughter of Many Pioneers

"What you keep, you lose.

What you give away, you keep. And when you leave, you take with you, only what you have given away."

So reads the beginning of Lola Haden McDaniel's obituary. Lola was dedicated to the concept of giving – she and her husband Moran K. McDaniel cofounded the McDaniel Charitable Foundation, which supported scholarships, research, and community projects in her hometown of Galveston, Texas.

Lola Haden McDaniel

What you keep, you lose.

What you give away, you keep. And when you leave, you take with you, only what you have given away.

As reported by Lola Haden McDaniel, she was born December 28, 1910, in Harris County, Texas, on Cedar Bayou, at her grandparent's farm. Lola Anne Haden McDaniel lived her life believing that an education and "giving back" were important attributes to her legacy.

Lola Haden McDaniel and her late husband Moran K. McDaniel funded The McDaniel Charitable Foundation in 1997. The McDaniel Charitable Foundation has supported Galveston County, and beyond, in scholarships, research and community projects.

Lola Haden McDaniel felt much endearment toward Galveston County because much of the McDaniel's success and prosperity was related to the support they received from the people of this community. The theatre business they started survived the hardship of wars, natural disasters and difficult economic times.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Galveston County Daily News* (Galveston, Texas), 29 August 2010

Lola passed away in 2010. I discovered her obituary using [GenealogyBank](#). Interested in finding recent obituaries of Mayflower descendants, I searched GenealogyBank's archives using the terms "Mayflower" AND "ancestor." Because Lola's obituary mentioned her Mayflower Pilgrim heritage, her obituary was the first result in the ["Recent Obituaries" archive](#).

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

Search for Your Ancestors in Newspapers 1690–Today!

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Ancestor's Last Name ?

First Name ?

Exact Search ☐ ?

Include Keywords

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

Lola was a life member of The Mayflower Society: General Society of the Mayflower Descendants. Her ancestor was one of the original Pilgrims, John Howland, who sailed in 1620, from England to North America, aboard the Mayflower and was the 13th signer on the Mayflower Compact. Howland helped establish the Plymouth Colony.

Mrs. McDaniel was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR.) She served as Regent of the George Washington Chapter in Galveston, Texas. Her ancestor Daniel McKinney, fought under the command of George Washington. Daniel McKinney dressed like an Indian and emptied tea into Boston Harbor. This act of defiance was one of many that led to the American Revolution.

She was also a member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) as a descendant of Collin McKinney who signed the Declaration of Independence. Collin County and the town of McKinney, Texas, were named in his honor. Mrs. McDaniel served in the Sidney Sherman Chapter of the DRT as President twice and was also a state Vice President. Lola has been an avid supporter of "the Cradle" in Galveston, Texas, and was presented with the prestigious Blue Bonnet pins and a "Yellow Rose of Texas Award" by Governor Rick Perry.

Source: GenealogyBank, Galveston County Daily News (Galveston, Texas), 29 August 2010

According to her obituary, Lola was a descendant of Mayflower Compact signer John Howland, Daniel McKinney who fought under George Washington, and signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence Collin McKinney.

That makes Lola and me cousins multiple times over via all of her ancestors. I didn't know I had a cousin who not only signed the Texas Declaration of Independence in 1836 but was, according to [Wikipedia](#), "one of the five individuals who drafted [it] and the oldest person to sign it." Thank you GenealogyBank!

Lola's legacy continues on with the [McDaniel Charitable Foundation](#). The Foundation's mission is "to produce profound good." Wow – wonderful mission statement.

On its website, the foundation describes Lola and her husband as follows:

"The McDaniel Charitable Foundation (MCF) is a 501-(c)(3) charitable foundation based in Texas City, TX. The Foundation was established in 1997 through the generosity of Moran K. and Lola H. McDaniel of La Marque, TX.

"Lola and Moran McDaniel lived in Galveston briefly before settling in LaMarque, TX, where the couple ran a theater. Mr. and Mrs. McDaniel both attended Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. The McDaniels

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

have been supporters of the University and various other organizations throughout the state, including the Galveston County Junior League, the Daughters of the American Republic, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the Mayflower Society, and the First United Methodist Church.”

– McDaniel Charitable Foundation



**Photo: Moran K. and Lola Haden McDaniel.
Source: McDaniel Charitable Foundation.**

This is terrific – what good people. I never would have read their story and found these cousins without GenealogyBank!

Genealogy Tip: Discover the stories of your relatives and other notable people by searching GenealogyBank’s [Historical Newspaper Archives](#) and [Recent Obituaries](#) for keywords that connect you to your family – and learn more about them.


John Howland

Mayflower Heritage: Jack Howland Loved His!

Take pride in your Mayflower heritage – just like Jack Howland did.


According to Howland's obituary:

"His Mayflower heritage was something that he was immensely proud of. He served as historian and archivist for the Pilgrim John Howland Society for many years. This role allowed him to communicate with fellow descendants from across the country and around the world. Jack was also captain of the Maine Mayflower Society. Annual trips to Plymouth were something that he always enjoyed."



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Jack Howland, 72: Newspaper Obituary and Death Notice

Eagle-Tribune, The (Lawrence, MA) - Wednesday, November 2, 2011
Deceased Name: Jack Howland, 72

WALDOBORO , Maine — Jack Howland, 72, formerly of Haverhill, passed away peacefully with his wife and son beside him on Monday, Sept. 12, 2011 at Pen Bay Medical Center in Rockport.

He was born in Dover, N.H. on Jan. 5, 1939, the son of the late John C. and Dorothea (Hurn) Howland. He grew up in Haverhill, and was a graduate of Haverhill High School, Class of 1956. After high school Jack entered the Navy, and served on the USS Plymouth Rock for three years. He worked in the meat business for all his working life, working for First National Stores and Hannaford. He entered his career as Meat Manager for the Waldoboro, Hannaford.

Jack met his wife Carole in 1970 when they lived in Boston. After a year's courtship they were engaged and married on Cape Cod in 1973. In 1976 they tired of the city life and moved to Maine, a place with which they felt a connection. In Maine, his community life was filled with many interests. He rose to be the Commander of the VFW post in Waldoboro, served as a pack committee chairman for the Boy Scouts, was on the board of the Friendship Street School, ran blood drives for the Red Cross as well as being an active participant in local theater productions.

**Source: GenealogyBank, *Eagle Tribune* (Lawrence, Massachusetts),
2 November 2011**

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

His Mayflower heritage was such a part of him that after high school, when he joined the Navy, he served on the USS Plymouth Rock (LSD-29).



Photo: USS Plymouth Rock underway, 8 April 1963. Source: Wikipedia.

His obituary went on to say that:

“He took particular pleasure in recreating the journey of his ancestor, John Howland, back to Plymouth in 2003 aboard the shallop Elizabeth Tilley. In 2010 he was awarded the Lura Sellev Medal, the highest honor that the Pilgrim John Howland Society bestows for service to the organization and the memory of the Pilgrim John Howland.”

The Pilgrim John Howland Society is an organization of descendants of John and Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland who were passengers on the Mayflower.

Remarkably, the home that John and Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland lived in during their old age is still standing. It was the home of their son, Jabez Howland.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations



**Photo: Jabez Howland House in Plymouth, Massachusetts.
Source: Swampyank; Wikimedia Commons.**

According to Wikipedia they both lived in this home:

“...after their own house burned. John Howland died in 1674 and Elizabeth lived there until the house was sold in 1680 and Jabez Howland moved to Rhode Island. Elizabeth moved to the home of her daughter, Lydia (Howland) Browne, in Swansea, where she died in 1687.”

Take the time to research and document all of the descendants of your Mayflower ancestors.

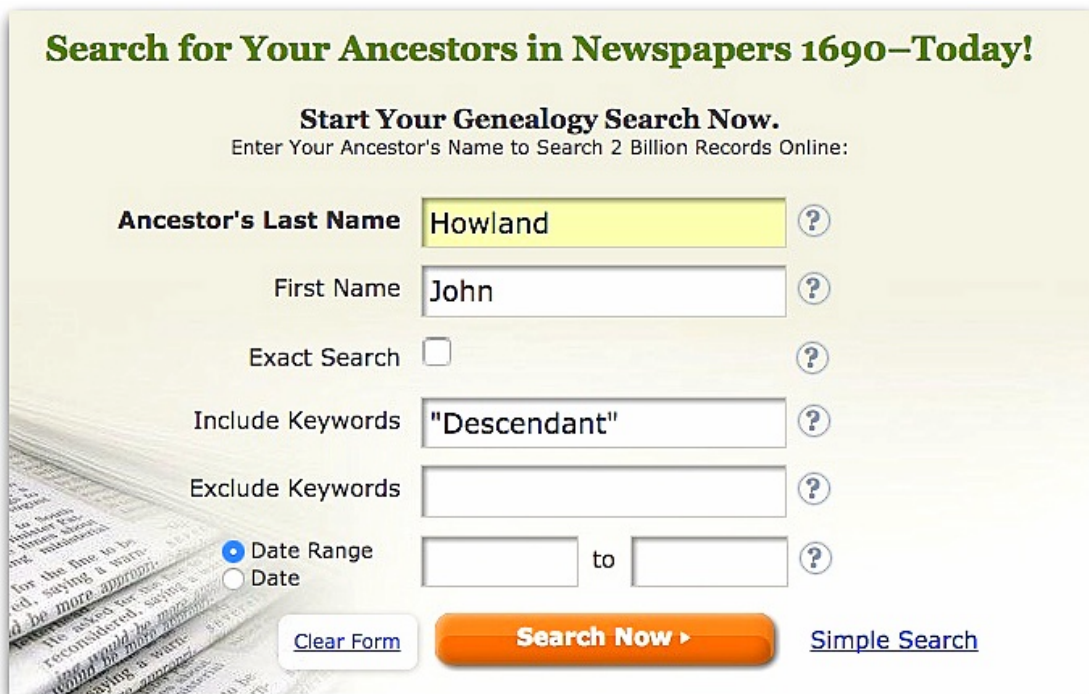
Search out and read their stories and share them.

John Howland

Helen (Capron) Greenwood: Mayflower Descendant and Graduate of the Historic Katharine Gibbs School

I discovered Helen (Capron) Greenwood's obituary while searching for fellow descendants of Mayflower Pilgrim John Howland, and learned about how this cousin gave back to the community.

I found Helen by searching GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#) for John Howland's name and the keyword "Descendant."



Search for Your Ancestors in Newspapers 1690–Today!

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Ancestor's Last Name: ?

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Exact Search: ☐ ?

Include Keywords: ?

Exclude Keywords: ?

☒ Date Range to ?
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Source: GenealogyBank

According to her obituary, she was indeed a direct descendant of John Howland, in addition to serving in many Mayflower-descendant organizations throughout her life:

"She was secretary-treasurer of the Pilgrim John Howland Society, former secretary of the Rhode Island Society of Mayflower Descendants, a member of the Beacon Pole Hill Chapter, DAR, the Daughters of the Founders and Patriots of America, the Society of Old Plimouth Colony Descendants, the Pilgrim Society Plimoth Plantations of Pilgrims, the Rhode Island Historical Society and the Woonsocket Historical Society."

Helen Greenwood, 77; was a descendant of John Howland, Mayflower passenger

Helen Greenwood, 77, of 73 Pound Hill Rd., a secretary for her husband, the late W. Russell Greenwood, a well known Rhode Island patent lawyer, before retiring in 1963, died yesterday in Rhode Island Hospital.

She had previously been employed as a clinical secretary for the Providence Child Guidance Clinic of the Rhode Island Society of Mental Hygiene. She had also employed as a patent law secretary in the Providence and Washington, D.C. areas.

Born in Woonsocket, a daughter of the late Carlile W. and Blanche (Smith) Capron, she had lived in North Smithfield most of her life.

She was a graduate of Katherine Gibbs Secretarial School, Providence. She was secretary-treasurer of the Pilgrim John Howland Society, former secretary of the Rhode Island Society of Mayflower Descendants, a member of the Beacon Pole Hill Chapter, DAR, the Daughters of the Founders and Patriots of America, the society of Old Plimouth Colony Descendants, the Pilgrim Society Plimoth Plantations of Pilgrims, The Rhode Island Historical Society and the Woonsocket Historical Society.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Providence Journal* (Providence, Rhode Island), 19 June 1986

She was "...a daughter of the late Carlile W. and Blanche (Smith) Capron, she had lived in North Smithfield most of her life." Good catch: the family tree did not include the name of her mother, so based on this I was able to add that information to the tree.

With a little more research, I found her mother's full name, Blanche Evelyn Smith (1873-1940) – and that she was born in Charlotte County, New Brunswick, Canada. Hmm – I have a lot of relatives from that county who have lived there since the 1700s. I'll have to look into her family lines to see if I have additional connections via that side of the family.

The obituary reported that Helen was a graduate of the Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School and worked as a secretary in many capacities throughout her life, both professionally and in her volunteer positions.

Katharine Gibbs founded her secretarial school in 1911 after being widowed two years earlier at age 46 with two young children to support. According to Wikipedia:

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

"In 1910 Gibbs' sister, Mary (Capron) Ryan, enrolled in the Providence School for Secretaries in Providence, Rhode Island, and became an assistant teacher at the school. The school's owner asked Mary if she would like to purchase the school, and Mary and Katharine decided to purchase it together for \$1000 with Mary teaching and Katharine serving as an administrator."

A household name institution was born.

Katharine Gibbs died in 1934, and by the time of her death the school had produced thousands of highly trained secretaries.

In an effort to learn more about the school, I decided to search for Katharine Gibbs' name in GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#), too, along with the keyword "secretary."

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Ancestor's Last Name: ?

First Name: ?

Exact Search: ☒ ?

Include Keywords: ?

Exclude Keywords: ?

☒ Date Range to ?
☐ Date

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Source: GenealogyBank

This search produced a 1971 advertisement for scholarships at a Katharine Gibbs school: 57 \$800 scholarships for high school seniors.

An Important Announcement for High School Seniors about Scholarships at Katharine Gibbs

...“The Secretarial School for Girls
Who Want More than Just a Job.”

IF YOU'RE the kind of girl who wants more than just a routine job after high school, then you should consider going to Katharine Gibbs for training as an executive-level secretary. We believe you deserve a chance to attend our school next year, even though you may require some financial assistance.

To help students who may not otherwise be able to attend Gibbs, we have established fifty-seven \$800 scholarships each year for high school seniors who live within commuting distance of a Katharine Gibbs school. These awards are granted solely on the basis of written examinations, school records, personal qualifications, and financial need. Also partial scholarships are awarded by our Alumnae Fund.

In addition to scholarships, other financial assistance is available to the girl who really wants a quality education. Your local bank may participate in the Government-guaranteed loan program. If not, Gibbs is prepared to lend you the money directly. We know from experience that the fine salary you will earn as a Gibbs graduate will help you to repay your loan more quickly.

Each year thousands of employers call Gibbs requesting “A Gibbs Girl, please!” We can't begin to fill all these openings.

All qualifying papers for 1972-1973 scholarships must be received by the school on or before January 25, 1972. So send now for your application and free school catalog.

CALL MISS HOUGHTON
(617) 262-2250
OR MAIL COUPON

Source: GenealogyBank, *Boston Herald* (Boston, Massachusetts),
21 November 1971, page 76

The Gibbs School's excellent reputation is well reflected in the second-to-last paragraph of the advertisement:

“Each year thousands of employers call Gibbs requesting ‘A Gibbs Girl, please!’ We can’t begin to fill all these openings.”

What a great story. Helen (Capron) Greenwood pursued her career and applied it not only in her employment, but to the benefit of family history – I’m glad to count Helen as a cousin.

Genealogy Tip: When searching the names of your cousins, look into the schools they attended and the groups they supported to round out your understanding of their lives. Note every clue in their obituary notice – you might find that you are cousins on multiple family lines.

Degory Priest

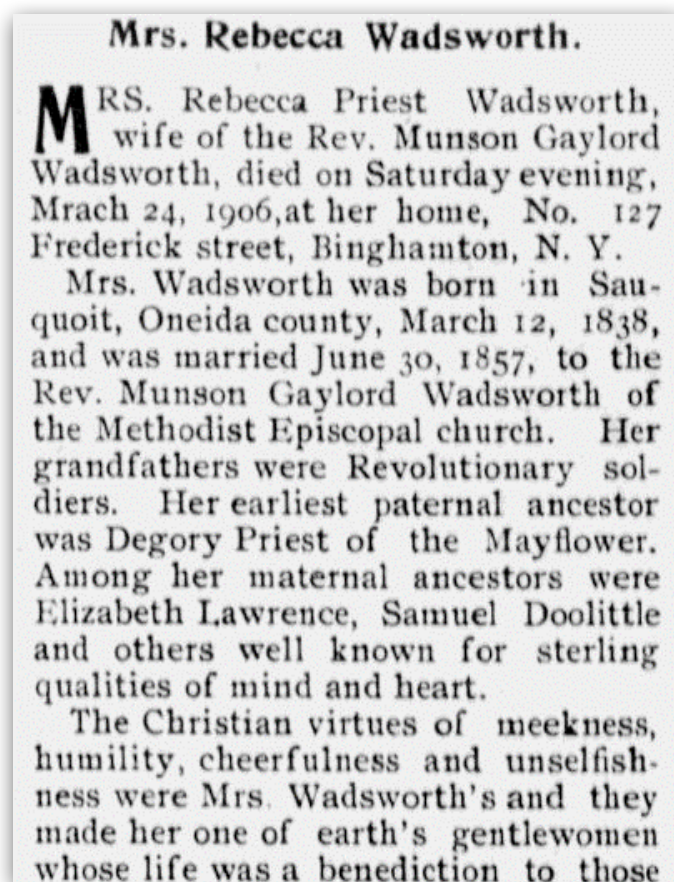
Mayflower Descendant: Rebecca (Priest) Wadsworth

I have a goal of documenting at least one Mayflower descendant each week.

This week I chose Rebecca (Priest) Wadsworth (1838-1906), who was a descendant of Mayflower passenger Degory Priest.

In Rebecca's case her name and that of her husband were listed in one of the well-known online family history websites – but what was missing was the full genealogical facts of her life.

Her detailed obituary supplied those facts, giving me her dates and places of birth and death, as well as the details of her funeral service and burial at Floral Park Cemetery in Binghamton, New York. As I looked further at her family I was able to add over 30 additional relatives to my family tree.



Source: GenealogyBank, *Northern Christian Advocate* (Syracuse, New York),
23 August 1906, page 543

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

Every week I look in GenealogyBank for a person identified as being a descendant of a Mayflower passenger. It is part of my one-man effort to document the extended families of Mayflower cousins in preparation for the 400th anniversary in 2020 of the arrival of the Mayflower.

Every obituary adds more details, documenting the tribe. I noticed that this obituary was particularly helpful in supplying the middle names of so many of Rebecca Wadsworth's relatives – as well as clues to discovering additional family members.

Do your part in paying it forward for all genealogists. Find and document your relatives, and add your information to the major online family tree sites for the benefit of all family history researchers.

Thomas Rogers

Search Historical Obituaries with a Keyword to Find Specific Family Information

The past few months I've enjoyed delving into my Mayflower ancestry and discovering new relatives who are also descendants of my Pilgrim grandparents. This research has led to articles about all seven of these Pilgrims, the last of which is Thomas Rogers (1571-1621), my 10th great-grandfather.

Thomas came to New England with his son Joseph, and the rest of his children came on later voyages. We have records of at least one of his other children, John, coming to Plymouth about 1630. Sadly, Thomas died the first winter in Plymouth, leaving his children orphans. According to FamilySearch, both Joseph and John had children.

Interested in learning more about other descendants that came through this line, I decided to search GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#) for "Thomas Rogers" with the keyword "Mayflower."

Start Your Genealogy Search Now.
Enter Your Ancestor's Name to Search 2 Billion Records Online:

Ancestor's Full Name ?

Exact Search ☒ ?

Include Keywords ?

Exclude Keywords ?

☒ **Date Range** to ?
☐ **Date**

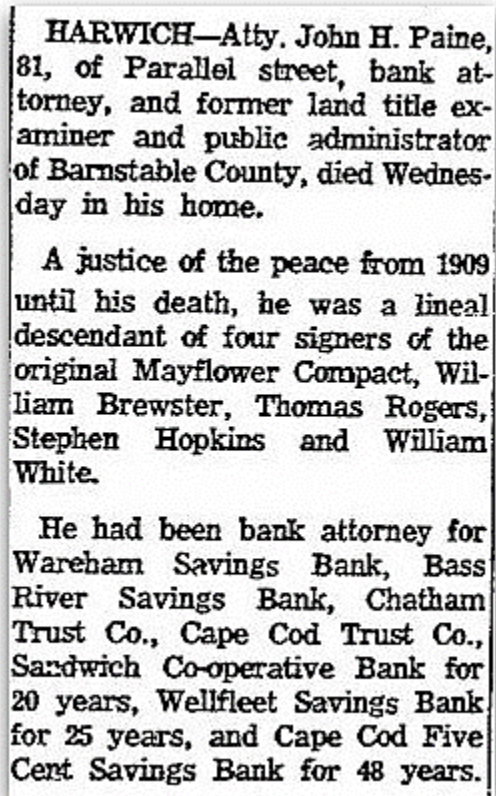
[Clear Form](#) **Search Now >** [Simple Search](#)

Source: GenealogyBank

I decided to search specifically in GenealogyBank's "Historical Obituaries" collection, as I've had good luck in the past finding new relatives using those types of records.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

The first obituary of the search results was that of John H. Paine (1883-1962), a lawyer from Harwich, Massachusetts.



HARWICH—Atty. John H. Paine, 81, of Parallel street, bank attorney, and former land title examiner and public administrator of Barnstable County, died Wednesday in his home.

A justice of the peace from 1909 until his death, he was a lineal descendant of four signers of the original Mayflower Compact, William Brewster, Thomas Rogers, Stephen Hopkins and William White.

He had been bank attorney for Wareham Savings Bank, Bass River Savings Bank, Chatham Trust Co., Cape Cod Trust Co., Sandwich Co-operative Bank for 20 years, Wellfleet Savings Bank for 25 years, and Cape Cod Five Cent Savings Bank for 48 years.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Boston Herald* (Boston, Massachusetts),
2 July 1964, page 41

John was a former attorney, banker, land title administrator and justice of the peace in Harwich, and was a descendant of four Mayflower Pilgrims: William Brewster, Thomas Rogers, Stephen Hopkins, and William White. This means I am doubly related to him – William Brewster and Thomas Rogers are my ancestors, too.

John Paine was very well-connected. A graduate of Boston University Law School, he served in many prestigious public service positions and was a member of several elite organizations in the Harwich community.

He served as land title examiner from 1912 to 1959, when he retired, and was public administrator for the county from 1921 to 1962. He had been a trustee and clerk of the corporation of the Cape Cod Five Cent Savings Bank, Harwichport, from 1934 to 1959.

He served on the school committee from 1914 to 1923. He was a member of the Barnstable County Bar Association from 1916 to 1953 and served for many years as its clerk and treasurer. He was a former member of the Massachusetts Bar Association.

He was a charter member of the Harwich Grange; a member of Sylvester Baxter Royal Arch Chapter; a member of Pilgrim Lodge, A.F. and A.M. since 1915; a member of the Boston University Law School Alumni; a former member of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce and the Harwich Chamber of Commerce; president and secretary of the Harwich High School Alumni Association, and was a member and former treasurer of the Harwich Agricultural Association.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Boston Herald*
(Boston, Massachusetts),
2 July 1964, page 41

This article also gave me the name of his wife: Mildred Williams Paine (1893-1985). Mildred and John had one child, Robert Valmer Paine (1921-1942), who was sadly killed in action in World War II.

To find more details about John's life, I searched GenealogyBank with his name and the keyword "Harwich."

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

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Ancestor's Full Name ?

Exact Search ☒ ?

Include Keywords ?

Exclude Keywords ?

☒ **Date Range** to ?
☐ **Date**

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Source: GenealogyBank

From the results of this search, I found that John's obituary also appeared in the *Boston Record American*.

This article gave me one other interesting detail about John's life: he edited a history of Harwich which was written by his father, Josiah Paine.

That book is online [here](#).

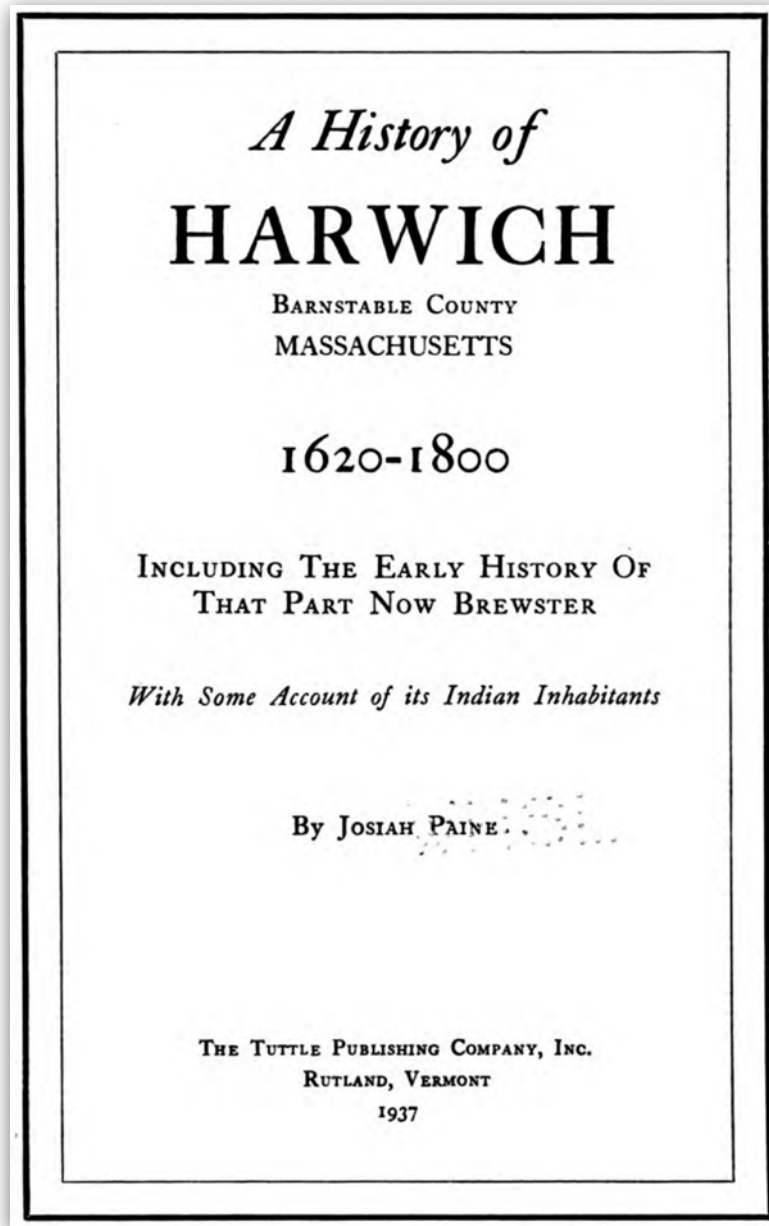
John H. Paine, Cape Attorney

HARWICH—Services will be conducted Friday at 2 p. m. in the First Congregational Church in Harwich for John Howard Paine, 81, Cape Cod attorney, who died Wednesday at his home on Parallel st. He was a justice of the peace in Harwich for 55 years.

Paine was a lineal descendant of four signers of the Mayflower Compact. He edited a history of the town of Harwich written by his father, Josiah Paine.

He leaves his wife, the former Mildred Williams.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Boston Record American*
(Boston, Massachusetts),
3 July 1964, page 6



Source: Hathi Trust Digital Library,
<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89067486688;view=1up;seq=9>

It's a great day for genealogy!

Genealogy Tip: Using keywords to search obituaries in GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#) can help you find specific articles about your family, or locate new relatives who share a common ancestor that you weren't aware of previously.

Thomas Rogers

Using the Keyword 'Mayflower' Can Help You Find Other Pilgrim-Descended Cousins

I can trace my lineage back to at least seven Mayflower Pilgrims, meaning I have a lot of American cousins from each of these lines. I enjoy discovering new information about these cousins, and I've found that if I search GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#) with my Pilgrim ancestor's name and the keyword "Mayflower," I can usually find articles about other Mayflower descendants that mention our common ancestor.

One of these Mayflower ancestors is Pilgrim Thomas Rogers (1571-1621). So, employing the above tactic, I searched for his first and last name with the keyword "Mayflower," to search for new relatives.



Start Your Genealogy Search Now.
Enter Your Ancestor's Name to Search 2 Billion Records Online:

Ancestor's Full Name ?

Exact Search ☒ ?

Include Keywords ?

Exclude Keywords ?

☒ **Date Range** to ?
☐ **Date**

[Clear Form](#) [Search Now >](#) [Simple Search](#)

Source: GenealogyBank

The first result of this search was an *Evansville Courier and Press* article about the Indiana Society of Mayflower Descendants that mentioned a fellow Rogers cousin.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

was Edmund J. Rogers, who in 1827 opened at New Harmony a store of general merchandise in connection with Adam Moffitt. In 1818 he had driven a four-horse team from Damascus, Conn., to Indiana, living first at Carlisle, in Sullivan county, where his father had decided to locate.

Not only from Thomas Rogers of the Mayflower could Edmund Rogers trace his descent, but through his mother (also born a Rogers) came Captain James Rogers of the ship *Innocence*, which cast anchor in Plymouth harbor in 1635.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Evansville Courier and Press* (Evansville, Indiana), 19 December 1920, page 6

According to this article, Edmund J. Rogers was twice a Rogers: he was descended from the Pilgrim Thomas Rogers on his father's side, and from Captain James Rogers on his mother's side.

"Not only from Thomas Rogers of the Mayflower could Edmund Rogers trace his descent, but through his mother (also born a Rogers) came Captain James Rogers of the ship Innocence, which cast anchor in Plymouth harbor in 1635."

The article also reports:

"In 1818 he had driven a four-horse team from Damascus, Conn., to Indiana."

Damascus, Connecticut?

Never heard of it. I'll have to look into that.

The rest of the article tells me more about this cousin's life.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

In 1829 Edmund Rogers associated himself in business with William McClure of Workingmen's Institute fame, but in 1844 he took over the entire concern himself, remaining until 1870 in active mercantile pursuits at New Harmony. He then moved to Rockport to live with his only child, Mrs. Jesse W. Laird. Her likeness as Celia Rogers, one of the charter members of the renowned Minerva club, now hangs in the historic drawing-room of "Fauntleroy Place," where the world's first organized club of women had its birth in 1859.

Mr. Rogers died in Rockport in the latter eighties, survived by his daughter, since deceased, but his

Source: GenealogyBank, *Evansville Courier and Press* (Evansville, Indiana),
19 December 1920, page 6

Edmund began his career as a businessman in 1829, which he continued until he retired in 1870. He then moved to Rockport with his daughter, Celia (Rogers) Laird, who was one of the charter members of the women's organization the Minerva Club. Hmm... her portrait is on display there – I'll have to see if they still have it and request a copy.

Interested in learning more about Edmund, I next searched for his name in GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#) with the keyword "Rockport."

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

Start Your Genealogy Search Now.
Enter Your Ancestor's Name to Search 2 Billion Records Online:

Ancestor's Last Name ?

First Name ?

Exact Search ☐ ?

Include Keywords ?

Exclude Keywords

☒ Date Range to ?
☐ Date

[Clear Form](#) [Search Now >](#) [Simple Search](#)

Source: GenealogyBank

This search led me to Edmund's death notice, also in the *Evansville Courier and Press*.

Mr. Edmund J. Rogers died this morning at 6:00 o'clock, at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Celia Laird. Mr. Rogers was probably the oldest person in Rockport, he being 90 years, 4 months and 3 days. He has always been a very active business man and has accumulated considerable wealth. Mrs. Laird is his only child and Clarence Laird one of our most prominent young attorneys is his only grand son. Mr. Rogers moved from New Harmony to this city about thirty years ago, and has resided here ever since. The funeral will take place Friday morning at 9 o'clock from the residence on Sen. inar street.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Evansville Courier and Press* (Evansville, Indiana),
11 April 1890, page 5

From this article, I learned a little more about his family: his daughter, Celia, was an only child, and Edmund's grandson, Clarence, was a prominent attorney in Rockport at the time. Edmund died at home with his family at age 90.

Genealogy Tip: Searching for your Pilgrim ancestors in GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#) with the keyword "Mayflower" can help you find new articles that mention other Mayflower descendants – and help connect you to new branches of your family.

George Soule

Mayflower Cemetery – Old but Not Forgotten

Don't overlook the letters to the editor section in GenealogyBank's online [Historical Newspaper Archives](#).

Cemetery old but not forgotten

We are interested in the "Soule Cemetery" off Swamp Road near Fairfield as my great great and great, great, great grandfathers are buried there.

My wife and I have been going over (we live in Quebec near the border) and doing a bit of mowing for the past few years. Imagine our surprise when we went this year and found it had all been mowed and was in relatively good shape.

We understand that this was due to the hard labor of Allan Corliss of St. Albans. On behalf of ourselves and the Soule Kindred in America we would like to publicly thank Mr. Corliss for his initiative and hard work over this past summer, as believe me, this was no one time effort.

We would be interested in helping if "a bee" could be arranged next spring to level off some of the graves, etc.

*Stanley Soule
Bedford, Que.*

Source: GenealogyBank, *St Albans Daily Messenger* (St Albans, Vermont),
2 November 1994, page 5

I found this fan mail from Stanley Soule of Bedford, Quebec, who wrote in gratitude for the "hard labor of Allan Corliss of St. Albans," who was maintaining the old Soule Cemetery – where some of the descendants of Mayflower passenger George Soule are buried.

Be sure to read every search result – you never know what family history details you will find.

Myles Standish

My 9th Cousin, Twice Removed, Has Died

Oh, I never met him – but thanks to GenealogyBank’s comprehensive newspaper coverage I learned that my 9th cousin, twice removed, passed away just a few days ago.

He was an unassuming, quiet man who was deeply proud of his business and his family history. He was a descendant from Myles Standish, who came to America on the Mayflower in 1620.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Times Union* (Albany, New York), 25 September 2016

How would I know that John Spencer Standish (1925-2016) is my cousin? Because of these two lines in his obituary: “He was an unassuming, quiet man who was deeply proud of his business and his family history. He was a descendant from Myles Standish, who came to America on the Mayflower in 1620.”

Armed with that family history clue, I was able to quickly trace back his lineage and confirm that in fact, we are cousins – descended from the same Mayflower Pilgrim ancestors.

GenealogyBank is your #1 source for finding your Mayflower cousins. (See: GenealogyBank’s [Historical Newspaper Archives](#).) I am using it to get ready for the giant family reunion on Thanksgiving Day in 2020, to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Mayflower. Are you preparing for the reunion?

Myles Standish

Mayflower Passenger's Daughter: Loara Standish Is My Name!

I am always amazed at the artifacts that have survived from our Mayflower ancestors' families. Did you know that Loara Standish's sampler has survived since it was created nearly 400 years ago – and that it can be seen at Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth, Massachusetts? She was the daughter of famed Mayflower passenger Myles Standish (military advisor for Plymouth Colony) and his second wife Barbara (Mullins) Standish, who came to Plymouth in 1623.



Source: Pilgrim Hall, Plymouth, Massachusetts

Terrific family heirloom!

Loara Standish is my name
Lord guide my heart that
I may do thy will
Also fill my hands with such
convenient skill
As may conduce to virtue
devoid of shame
And I will give glory to
thy name.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Boston Herald* (Boston, Massachusetts),
9 February 1969, page 40

Do you have a sampler passed down in your family?

Are you a descendant of Mayflower passenger Captain Myles Standish and his
second wife Barbara (Mullins) Standish?

John Tilley

Knowing Your Ancestors' Professions Can Yield New Insights into Colonial Life

Mayflower Pilgrim John Tilley (1571-1621) is one of my ancestors.

I have spent some time digging into my Mayflower ancestors' lives to see what new information I could find about them. In my research on John Tilley this month, a newspaper notation about his profession took me by surprise. He was a "silk worker." I don't know as I've had any other ancestor that worked as a silk worker.

John was born in December 1571 in Henlow, Bedfordshire, England, and married Joan Hurst (1568-1621) on 20 September 1596. John and Joan had five known children, according to MayflowerHistory.com: Rose (who died as a young child), John, Rose, Robert, and Elizabeth. Of their children, Elizabeth Tilley (1607-1687) was the only one who accompanied them on the Mayflower voyage. She was about 13 years old at that time.

Sadly, John died the first winter in Plymouth. So, I decided to search for John in GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](http://HistoricalNewspaperArchives.com) to see if additional information about him had ever been published.

I started by searching for John's first and last names.

Start Your Genealogy Search Now.
Enter Your Ancestor's Name to Search 2 Billion Records Online:

Ancestor's Last Name ?

First Name ?

Exact Search ☐ ?

Include Keywords ?

Exclude Keywords ?

☒ **Date Range** to ?
☐ **Date**

[Clear Form](#) [Search Now >](#) [Simple Search](#)

Source: GenealogyBank

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

This search was far too broad: over 3,000 results. To narrow it down, I included the keyword “Mayflower.”

Refine your search

Ancestor's Last Name ?

First Name ?

Exact Search ☐ ?

Include Keywords ?

Exclude Keywords ?

☒ **Date Range** to ?

☐ **Date**

[Clear Form](#) **Search Now ▶**

Source: GenealogyBank

This more refined search led me to an article about the Arkansas Society of Mayflower Descendants, which listed John Tilley’s family as Mayflower passengers, and also gave another interesting detail: his profession.



Source: GenealogyBank, *Arkansas Democrat* (Little Rock, Arkansas), 9 February 1958, page 73

Wait – William Bradford was also listed as a silk weaver, Francis Cooke a wool comber, John Goodman a linen weaver, Degory Priest a hatter, Edward Tilley a cloth maker, James Chilton a tailor? I was pretty surprised that so many of them worked in the weaving, cloth and apparel trades: solid, practical skills that everyone in the colony would need.

At the time the Pilgrims came to the colonies in the 17th century, silk was a luxury commodity and the British were hoping to use the colonies as a production site. It would be another 150 years later before the silk industry would begin and take hold here.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

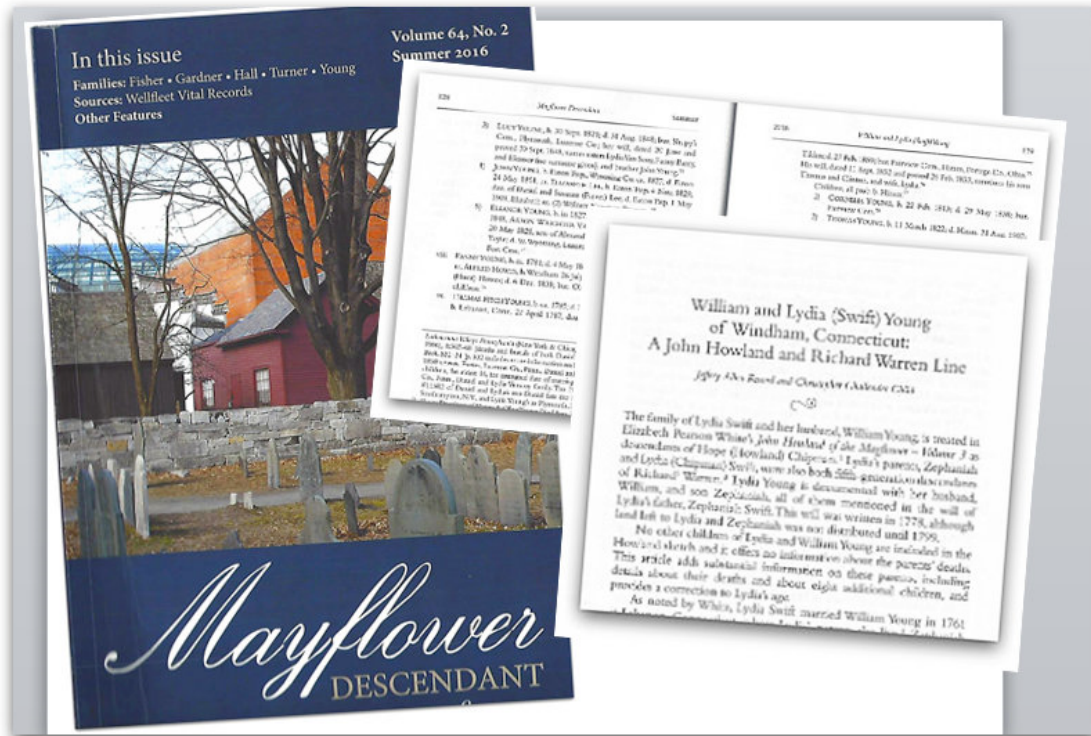
Had John and Joan Tilley survived that first tough year, it might be that his skill in the silk industry and the active support of his wife and daughter would have developed the industry a century earlier.

Genealogy Tip: Newspapers can tell you the details of your ancestors' lives – like the professions of even your earliest American ancestors. It's interesting to know the skills that they had and how they provided for their families. Use GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#) to discover your own relatives' stories.

Richard Warren

Mayflower Descendant: 'A John Howland & Richard Warren Line'

The Summer 2016 issue of the [Mayflower Descendant](#) is a terrific, must-have publication for genealogists. I encourage you to subscribe and read every issue.



Source: Thomas Jay Kemp

The first article, “William and Lydia (Swift) Young of Windham, Connecticut: A John Howland and Richard Warren Line” by Jeffery Allen Record and Christopher Chandler Child, immediately got my attention.

A “John Howland line.” I am a John Howland descendant – so these people are my cousins. I wanted to read this article and add the information to my family tree.

I don’t just wholesale add each of these well researched and documented individuals – I also verify each person, retracing the steps the authors took, and look for contemporary accounts in GenealogyBank’s [Historical Newspaper Archives](#) of the events in their lives.

I immediately found an article confirming the marriage of Thomas Fitch Young and Lydia Tilden in Lebanon, Connecticut (see pages 128-129 of the *Mayflower Descendant* article).

MARRIED—At Lebanon, Mr. *Thomas F. Young*, of this town, to Miss *Lydia Tilden*, daughter of Col. Daniel Tilden.—
At Norwich, Mr. *Joshua Bottum*, of this town, to Miss *Phebe Adams*.—At Stafford, Mr. *Samuel C. Lyon*, to Miss *Betsey Child*.
'Tis strange in this degen'rate age,
When man and beast are filled with rage,
'To see a *Lion*, fierce and wild,
Gently fondle o'er a *Child*.
[*Mirror*]

Source: GenealogyBank, *Windham Herald* (Windham, Connecticut),
4 June 1812, page 3

I also found this second article about their marriage.

MARRIAGES—At Georgia, Samuel R. Gillison, esq. to Miss Elizabeth Ann Smith—At Baltimore, Benedict W. Hall, esq. to Miss Mary Calhoun; and Enoch Clap, to Miss Mary Tyson—At Portsmouth, John March, jun. to Miss Martha P. Halbrook; & D. Ladd, to Miss Ann Jackson—At Hartford, Thomas McLean, to Miss Sally Wadsworth—At Lebanon, Thomas F. Young, to Miss Lydia Tilden—At Norwich, J. Bottum, to Miss Phoebe Adams—Near Boston, Dr. R. Payson, to Miss Abigail A. Warren—At Boston, Hiram Smith, to Miss Sally Beals; John M. Germain, to Miss Susan Reed; and John Morse, to Miss Frances H. Torrey.

Source: GenealogyBank, *New York Gazette* (New York, New York),
16 June 1812, page 2

With GenealogyBank's solid coverage of Colonial American newspapers – back to 1690
– GenealogyBank is my go-to source for verifying all of my Mayflower family lines.

Edward Winslow

An Original Portrait of a Pilgrim: Edward Winslow

Edward Winslow (1595-1655) was a Mayflower Pilgrim, signer of the Mayflower Compact, and three-time governor of Plymouth Colony. He is also notable for another reason: Edward is the only Mayflower Pilgrim with a verified portrait.



**Painting: portrait of Plymouth Colony Governor Edward Winslow.
Credit: Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, Massachusetts; Wikimedia Commons.**

I recently learned about the existence of this portrait and wanted to learn more. What was the history of this historic portrait and how did it come to be? To find out, I turned to GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#).

For this search, I used Edward's first and last names, plus two keywords: "Pilgrim" AND "Portrait."

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

Start Your Genealogy Search Now.
Enter Your Ancestor's Name to Search 2 Billion Records Online:

Ancestor's Last Name ?

First Name ?

Exact Search ☐ ?

Include Keywords ?

Exclude Keywords ?

☒ Date Range to ?
☐ Date

[Clear Form](#) [Search Now >](#) [Simple Search](#)

Source: GenealogyBank

This search led me to an article about the Winslow family and gave me a bit more info about the portrait itself.

The only authentic portrait of any Mayflower pilgrim is that of Edward Winslow; it was painted in England in 1651. His chair and other relics are preserved in Pilgrim hall. The first Thanksgiving is thus described by Winslow: "Our harvest being gotten in, Gov. Bradford sent four men on fowling, so that we might rejoice together. For three days we feasted Massasoit and some 90 men." This was in 1621. The next Thanksgiving day was in July, 1623.

Source: GenealogyBank, *San Francisco Chronicle* (San Francisco, California),
6 January 1907, page 6

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

According to the article:

"The only authentic portrait of any Mayflower pilgrim is that of Edward Winslow; it was painted in England in 1651. His chair and other relics are preserved in Pilgrim hall."

Interesting that it was painted in England and not in the United States.

The next article I found continued the story of this fascinating painting.



Source: GenealogyBank, *Boston Traveler* (Boston, Massachusetts),
3 July 1953, page 9

This article reports:

"Back in 1620 Edward Winslow sailed for America aboard the Mayflower. Today his portrait came back to Britain as an American gift to his birthplace, the midland spa of Droitwich..."

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

“The picture is a copy of the original hanging in the Pilgrim Hall at Plymouth Mass. The original is the only known contemporary portrait of any of the Pilgrim fathers. The copy, by American artist Elisabeth Weber-Fulopp, is the gift of the Historic Winslow House Association of Marshfield, Mass.”

A [document](#) from the Pilgrim Hall museum gave me the last piece of information I was looking for, explaining when and why the original painting was created:

“The portrait of Edward Winslow is the only likeness of a Pilgrim made from life. It was painted by an unknown English artist in 1651 when the 57-year-old Winslow was joined in London by his son Josiah on the occasion of Josiah’s wedding to Penelope Pelham. Josiah and Penelope also had their portraits painted at this time.”

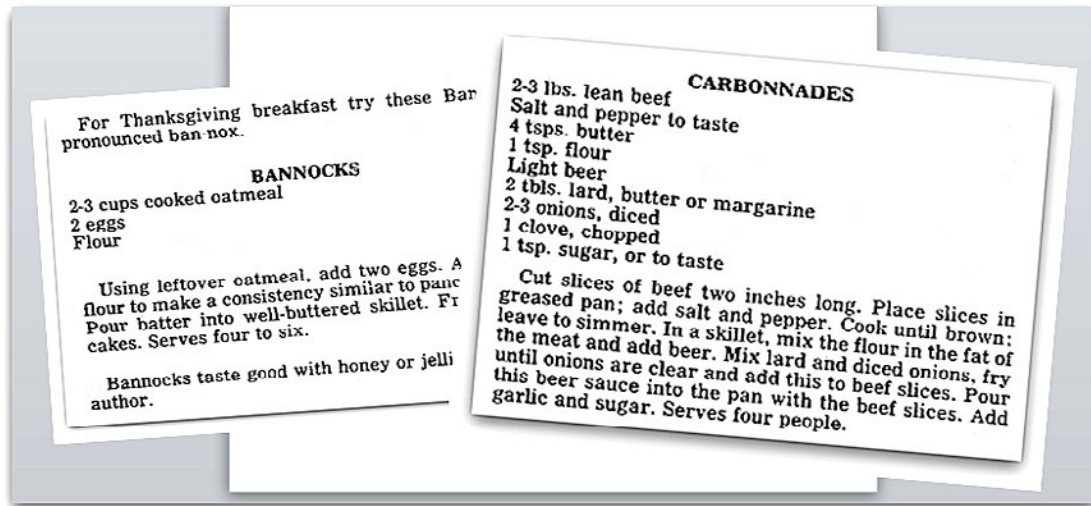
– Source: “Edward Winslow Portrait,” Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, Massachusetts

Fascinating. Interested historians and other visitors can see the Edward Winslow portrait, along with the Winslow chair and other relics, in the [Pilgrim Hall Museum](#).

Genealogy Tip: GenealogyBank’s newspapers can help you discover information about your family that you did not already know. Start your search today!

This Thanksgiving Season, Party Like a Pilgrim

With Thanksgiving approaching you might want to make some old family recipes that have been passed down for 400 years.



Source: GenealogyBank, *Mobile Register* (Mobile, Alabama),
22 November 1981, page 101

Hmm... I love oatmeal – so I just might try these fried oatmeal bannocks.

For Thanksgiving breakfast try these Bannocks, pronounced ban-nox.

BANNOCKS

2-3 cups cooked oatmeal
2 eggs
Flour

Using leftover oatmeal, add two eggs. Add enough flour to make a consistency similar to pancake batter. Pour batter into well-buttered skillet. Fry like pancakes. Serves four to six.

Bannocks taste good with honey or jellies...says the author.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Mobile Register* (Mobile, Alabama),
22 November 1981, page 101

Hmm... this Pilgrim stir fried beef might be tasty – but I'll skip adding the "beer sauce."

CARBONNADES

2-3 lbs. lean beef
Salt and pepper to taste
4 tps. butter
1 tsp. flour
Light beer
2 tbs. lard, butter or margarine
2-3 onions, diced
1 clove, chopped
1 tsp. sugar, or to taste

Cut slices of beef two inches long. Place slices in greased pan; add salt and pepper. Cook until brown; leave to simmer. In a skillet, mix the flour in the fat of the meat and add beer. Mix lard and diced onions, fry until onions are clear and add this to beef slices. Pour this beer sauce into the pan with the beef slices. Add garlic and sugar. Serves four people.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Mobile Register* (Mobile, Alabama),
22 November 1981, page 101

What's the Back Story of Those Familiar Thanksgiving Hymns?

Music editor Sigmund Spaeth (1885-1965) can tell you.



Source: GenealogyBank, *Advocate* (Baton Rouge, Louisiana),
13 November 1965, page 39

According to his obituary, Sigmund Spaeth turned his love of music and his uncanny ability to track down the origins of a tune or phrase:

“...into a profitable career after it became apparent to him that he could not make it as a professional musician.”

Noted Music Figure Dies

NEW YORK (AP) -- Sigmund Spaeth, who as the "Tune Detective" delighted radio audiences in the 1930s and 1940s, is dead at the age of 80.

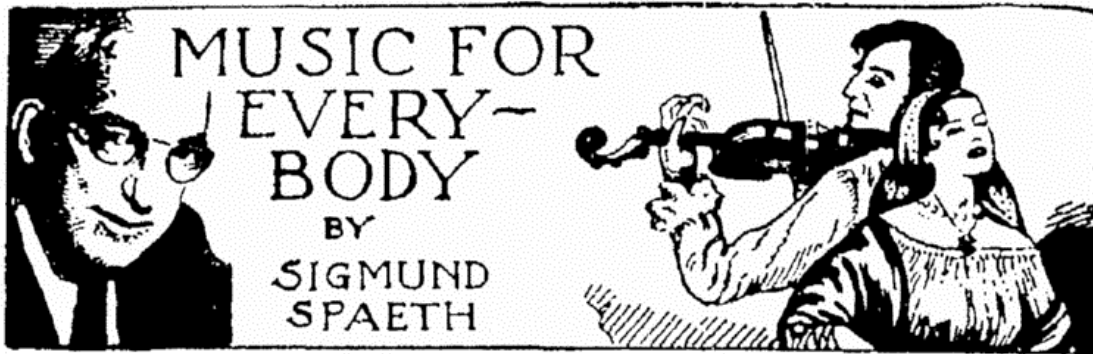
His death Thursday night brought to an end a career as author, editor, composer, lecturer, and entertainer in the field of music in movies, radio and television.

Spaeth reached a peak of popularity, however, through an uncanny ability to trace the composition of popular songs back to earlier sources. As Tune Detective, he appeared, not only on radio, but also on the stage of Radio City Music Hall and other theaters.

As an example, Spaeth once

Source: GenealogyBank, *Advocate* (Baton Rouge, Louisiana),
13 November 1965, page 39

In his regular column "Music for Everybody" on 22 November 1953, he commented on some favorite old Thanksgiving songs.



Source: GenealogyBank, *Springfield Union* (Springfield, Massachusetts),
22 November 1953, page 70

Here's what he had to say about "Now Thank We All Our God."

The two best known Thanksgiving hymns are very old. "Now Thank We All Our God" appeared in 1644 in a collection called "Praxis Pietatis Melica," edited by a German organist named Johann Cruger, who probably composed the tune. The words ("Nun danket alle Gott") were written by a contemporary poet, Martin Rinkart, and translated into English more than 200 years later by the prolific Catherine Winkworth.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Springfield Union* (Springfield, Massachusetts),
22 November 1953, page 70

According to Spaeth, this tune was probably composed by "a German organist named Johann Cruger" and the "words 'Nun danket alle Gott' were written by a contemporary poet, Martin Rinkart."

Listen to the song here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42ZqYk1YwRA>

"Prayer of Thanksgiving" is probably the most-sung and recognized of the Thanksgiving hymns. It begins "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing."

Dutch Prayer

The Dutch "Prayer of Thanksgiving," which appears in most of our books for community singing, seems to be a piece of true folk-music. It appears in a book of "Old Netherland Songs" collected by the Viennese Eduard Kremser late in the 19th century. Its broad, dignified melody, in triple time, is one of the best of its kind.

The standard hymn-books contain a number of other compositions that express gratitude for the harvest blessings. Incidentally, the Puritans themselves were far more musical than is generally realized, and more than willing to lift their voices in song, not necessarily of the sacred type.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Springfield Union* (Springfield, Massachusetts), 22 November 1953, page 70

Listen to it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeBWmU0tx6A>

"We Plow the Fields" and "Come Ye Thankful People, Come" are "sacred songs."

Sacred Songs

The name of "Dresden" is generally applied to the sacred song, "We Plow the Fields," whose tune was written by the pre-Schubertian Johann Abraham Peter Schulz to words by Matthias Claudius, later translated by Jane M. Campbell. Another Thanksgiving unnumber that could be called either a song or a hymn begins with the words "Come ye thankful people, come, Raise the song of harvest home." The text is by Henry Alford and the music was provided by Sir George Job Elvey, a famous cathedral organist of England.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Springfield Union* (Springfield, Massachusetts), 22 November 1953, page 70

Listen to it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msOzJ6DY7EA>

"Bringing in the Sheaves" is "on the more popular side."

On the more popular side is the gospel song, "Bringing in the Sheaves," credited to Knowles Shaw and George A. Minor.

Source: GenealogyBank, *Springfield Union* (Springfield, Massachusetts), 22 November 1953, page 70

Listen to it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u67Lb1RyXTU>

You Want to Be Prepared as Thanksgiving Approaches

Now that it is November, the holidays will be here before you know it.

You want to prepare now.

That's what Rose Briggs did. Her hard work set the tone for how Thanksgiving has been celebrated since 1921.

Rose's Thanksgiving preparation is just one of the many great stories in GenealogyBank's online [Historical Newspaper Archives](#).



Rose Thornton Briggs (1893-1981) was always prepared for every Thanksgiving. She made the costumes and saw to the details of the annual "Pilgrim March" which was held on "every Friday in August" starting in 1921. In 1941 she added the tradition of also marching on Thanksgiving Day. Up through 1971 she participated in every one of those marches.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

The Pilgrim March consists of 52 marchers, all in costume—each one representing a different Mayflower passenger that survived that first winter. All of the costumes were designed by Miss Briggs. She researched and prepared the costumes, working to make them as historically accurate as possible.

GenealogyBank's newspaper archives let you read about the accomplishments of this energetic woman, who made a lasting contribution and changed the way Thanksgiving is celebrated annually in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The following newspaper article was published in the *Boston Herald* a decade before Rose Briggs passed away.

Leader of Plymouth Progress March

Rose Briggs, 78, Keeps Settlers' Heritage Alive

By BETTY CURTIS

It wouldn't be Thanksgiving in Plymouth without a Progress March. And it wouldn't be a Progress March without 78-year-old Miss Rose Briggs stepping out sprightly in the front row of marchers.

Miss Briggs, whose ancestors came over on the Mayflower and helped to found the town, is as much a part of Plymouth as the Rock.

She is a direct descendant of Governor Bradford who was one of the original congregation in Scituate and was governor in Plymouth for many years. His wife died the first winter and he married again and had four children.

MISS BRIGGS' father had a cranberry bog in Monomack, which she and her brother, George, now run. Her mother founded the Plymouth Antiquarian Society of which Miss Briggs is now the curator.

It was Miss Briggs who helped institute the Progress March which has been held on Thanksgiving Day for the past 30 years . . . as well as every Friday in August for the past 50 years. What's more, she herself has participated in every one of the Progress Marches.

There are 52 marchers, each representing a man, woman or child who survived the rigors of that first winter. Miss Briggs will represent Mrs. Carver, whose husband was the town's first governor—but it was only a short lived appointment. He did not survive the winter and his wife died at the end of the first summer.

"We have difficulty in choosing people for the march for so many of the townfolk want to take part and we do try to keep the ages as authentic as we can," said Miss Briggs, a dignified lady who in her Puritan gown looks as if she just stepped off the Mayflower herself.

"WE HAD ONE old lady of 90 who wanted to play a young girl one year," she recalled with a smile, "and we had to let her, for she was so insistent."

The costumes worn by the marchers were all designed by Miss Briggs after many months of research into the period. All are as authentic as possible—with a few necessary modern innovations.

Explained Miss Briggs: "We have to dress 52 people of all shapes and sizes and don't know their measurements so some of the costumes have had to be made expandable."

Miss Briggs got her training in costume-making as a young Radcliffe student and member of Professor Baker's famous 40 Dresses Workshop back in the early 1900's. She also did costumeing for the Harvard Dramatic Club.

She's still one of Plymouth's most active citizens and today is her busiest day.

THIS MORNING she was up when much of the town was still asleep helping to prepare the turkey for the traditional turkey and cider served at Harlow Fort House. The turkey is par-cooked on a stove and then finished off on a spit used by the old settlers.

Then it's on to Mayflower House to help dress the marchers—a marathon job squeezed into less than an hour—and to get into her own costume.

The Progress march that starts at 2:30 p.m. is a re-enactment of the Pilgrim's procession to church. The line proceeds from Cole's Hill up Leyden Street to the site of the Pilgrim's early church, now the First Parish Church of Plymouth where services are held.

When does Miss Briggs get her own turkey dinner?

"I don't," she laughed, "I haven't had one for 30 years."



(Herald Tribune Staff Photo by Ullrich Vothel)

MISS BRIGGS as Mrs. Carver.



All costumes in Progress March were designed by Miss Briggs.

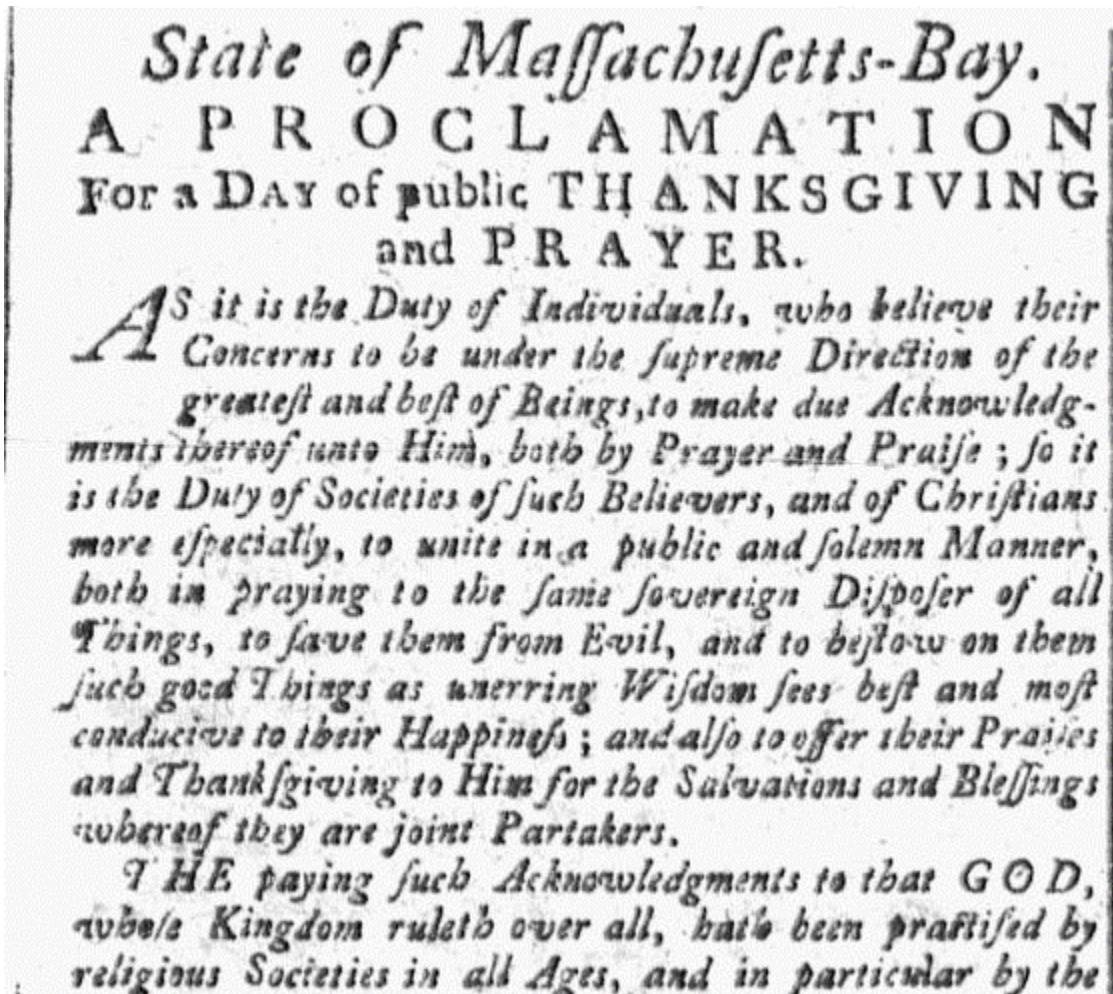
Source: GenealogyBank, *Boston Herald* (Boston, Massachusetts), 25 November 1971, page 60

This Thanksgiving, let's remember to also give thanks for Rose Thornton Brigg's vision, creativity and hard work.

You can find other great Thanksgiving stories in GenealogyBank's online newspapers.

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations

For example, a “Thanksgiving proclamation” was published in the *New-England Chronicle* just months after the Declaration of Independence was issued and while the country was at war with England.



Source: GenealogyBank, *New-England Chronicle* (Boston, Massachusetts),
28 November 1776, page 2

The signers of the proclamation declared that they “do appoint Thursday the Twelfth Day of December next, to be kept as a Day of public Thanksgiving and Prayer throughout this State. ended with the stirring words:

GOD SAVE THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA!

Source: GenealogyBank, *New-England Chronicle* (Boston, Massachusetts),
28 November 1776, page 2

Mayflower Families Across 12 Generations