

ISAAC ALLERTON OF THE *MAYFLOWER*

Among those on board the ship *Mayflower* when it finally arrived in New England in November, 1620 was Isaac Allerton, then about 34 years old. He had married in Leyden, Holland nine years earlier an English lady named Mary Norris. Three of their children came with them, but son Bartholomew Allerton later returned to England. Unfortunately, the mother died during the first terrible winter in Plymouth as half of those who had just arrived did not survive the unidentified epidemic.

The voyage from Holland to America had been planned by a religious group called Separatists. They had been punished in their home country of England for their religious beliefs. Many of them went to Holland, where there was greater religious toleration. But work was difficult to find, and they were very poor. Also, they did not approve of the Holland way of life and how it was affecting their children. Today we call this small group of people who founded Plymouth Colony the Pilgrims. Isaac Allerton was one of the 41 men who signed the Mayflower Compact. This now famous historic document was signed on board the *Mayflower*, the earliest example of a democratic government in our country.

Isaac was a part of that religious group in Holland, and his leadership ability was recognized by them. When Plymouth Colony Governor Carver died, Isaac was chosen Assistant Governor (to Governor William Bradford) in 1621 and held that position for several years. In 1625 Governor Bradford appointed Isaac as the agent to London for Plymouth Colony. He was later removed from this position.

In about 1626 Isaac married Fear Brewster, the daughter of Pilgrim William Brewster of the *Mayflower*, by whom he had two more children. Isaac started a fishing fleet in Salem, Massachusetts and later moved to New Amsterdam in New York, where he married a third wife, Joanna Swinnerton. Isaac Allerton died in New Haven, now Connecticut, where he was called a merchant, in February, 1659.

Children of Isaac and Mary (Norris) Allerton:

1. BARTHOLOMEW married and had four children born in England.
2. REMEMBER married MOSES MAVERICK.
3. MARY married THOMAS CHUSHMAN.
4. SON died at birth in Plymouth Harbor on December 22, 1620.

Children of Isaac and Fear (Brewster) Allerton:

5. SARAH born about 1627 and died before 1651.
6. ISAAC, born before 1630, had two wives and went to Westmoreland County, Virginia.

Which child of Pilgrim Isaac Allerton is your Mayflower ancestor?