

WILLIAM MULLINS OF THE *MAYFLOWER*

Among those on board the ship *Mayflower* when it finally arrived in New England in November, 1620 were William Mullins and his wife Alice, whose maiden name is not known, and their children Joseph and Priscilla. Williams Mullins was born about 1575 in Dorking, County of Surrey, England. He was a shopkeeper in Dorking, and his original home can be visited today, the only known existing structure in which one of the Pilgrim Fathers lived in England.

A religious group called the Separatists had fled from England to Holland to escape the fines and punishments for their illegal religious practices. After about 10 years in Holland, the Separatists found that jobs were hard to find and they were poor. They did not approve of the Dutch customs and way of life, and they did not approve of their children mixing with the Dutch children. They wanted to keep their English customs and their own religion, so they decided to go to the New World in search of religious freedom.

After several financial and political problems, two ships were obtained. The *Speedwell* (which leaked and could not make the trip) sailed from Leyden, Holland with the separatists aboard. And the *Mayflower* sailed from Southampton, England with the London and English group. Williams Mullins was a part of the London group, not a member of the Separatists religious group.

One problem after another delayed their departure until they had to cross the stormy North Atlantic Ocean during a bad time of the year. After 66 miserable days at sea with 102 passengers packed in that tiny ship, they finally anchored near Provincetown on Cape Cod in Massachusetts. Because of the mumbling and grumbling on board the ship, an agreement was signed by 41 men, including William Mullins, called the Mayflower Compact. This famous historic document is an example of our country's earliest democratic government.

It was December and very cold before the area at Plymouth Rock was finally selected as the site to established Plymouth Colony. Today we call this group of people who settled there the Pilgrims. Daughter Priscilla survived that first terrible winter when half of those who had just arrived perished from some unidentified epidemic, but William and Alice Mullins and their son Joseph died.

Children of William and Alice (-----) Mullins born in Dorking, England:

1. WILLIAM came later and died in Braintree in 1672.
2. SARAH had three husbands but had no heirs.
3. PRISCILLA married at a young age PILGRIM JOHN ALDEN of the *Mayflower* and had 10 children.

Which child of daughter Priscilla Mullins'Alden children is your Mayflower ancestor?

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