

# *My Mayflower Grandparents*



*by* Sandi Monson

*illustrated by* Heather Monson

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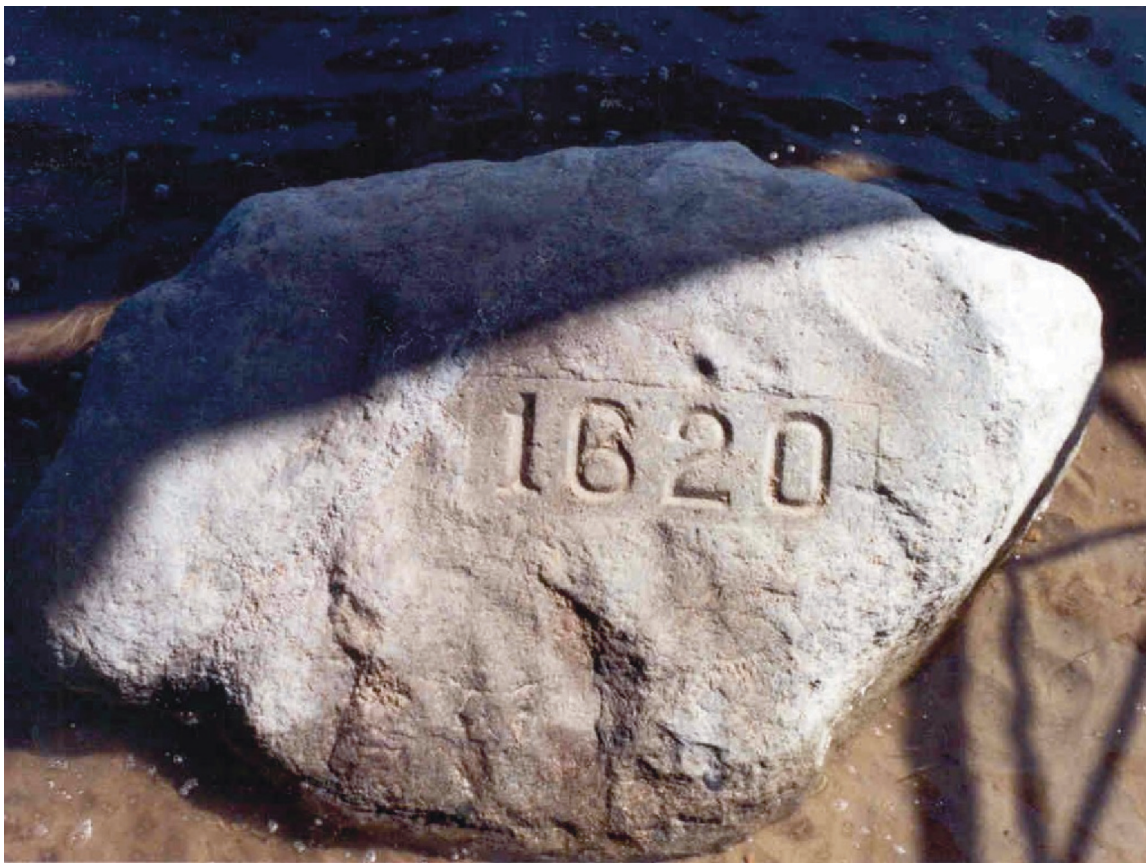
Below: Photo of Plymouth Rock, unknown.

Page 6: Photo of Bradford home in Plymouth Village, unknown.

Page 12: *The Mayflower Compact*, excerpt from *Of Plimouth Plantation* by William Bradford.

Page 15: *Embarkation of the Pilgrims*, 1844 painting by Robert W. Weir.  
Housed in the US Capitol Building.

Back cover: Photo of Cape Cod from space.



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# *My Mayflower Grandparents*

by  
**Sandi Monson**

illustrated by  
**Heather Monson**

edited by Joe Monson

*Gov. William Bradford*

William Bradford

John Kingston Bradford

Samuel Bradford

John Bradford

Mary Bradford

Elizabeth Churchill

Mary Ann Kennedy

John Pratt Kennedy Bird

Lewis Richard Bird

Matthew Fifield Bird





## *Governor William Bradford*

Once upon a time, over 400 years ago, there was a special group of people who lived across the ocean in a country called England. They were called Puritans because they believed many of the pure teachings of Christ were no longer being taught in their churches.

Because of their beliefs, they were driven from their homes in England and went to live in another country called Holland. The Dutch people were kind to the Puritans, but their customs were different, and so was their language.



The Puritans decided they would like a land of their own where they could be free to choose how they lived.

In 1620, a group of Puritans, also called Pilgrims, decided to start a new life in America. They signed the Mayflower Compact, which was an agreement about how they would govern themselves. They chose William Bradford, who was one of your ancestors, to be one of their leaders.





One hundred two Pilgrims travelled back to Southampton, England, boarded a small ship called the *Mayflower*, and sailed for America. The ship was crowded, and the ocean was often rough and stormy. Many people got seasick.

In William Bradford's journal, he told the story of a young boy named John Howland. John was sick and came up on the deck to get fresh air. The ocean was so rough that he got thrown overboard into the ocean.

As he was falling overboard, he managed to grab onto a rope that was hanging over the side of the ship. He hung on until the crew was able to pull him back onto the ship with great big fish hooks! What a story he had to tell his grandchildren later in his life!

After sixty-six days on the ocean, the *Mayflower* reached land, and they anchored the ship in a harbor. Men went out in little boats to find a good place for a settlement.

While the ship was anchored in the harbor, a storm came up and William Bradford's wife, Dorothy, fell overboard and drowned. William and their little boy, John, were very sad. It had been a long, hard journey to America.



The Pilgrims finally decided on a place for a settlement, and they called it the Plymouth Colony. Winter came, and they were very cold and hungry. They hurried to build little wooden buildings so they would have shelter from the cold.

They didn't have much food left to eat, so they were always hungry. Forty-six of the Pilgrims died during that first winter. Governor Carver died, so the Pilgrims chose William Bradford to be their new governor.

At last springtime arrived, bringing warmer weather and sunshine. An Indian named Samoset came to visit them. The next day he came with his friend Squanto, and they brought food and supplies.

The Indians taught the Pilgrims how to plant crops so they would have good food to eat. The men also went hunting and fishing in the woods so they would have meat. The Pilgrims gathered berries, fruits, and nuts from the woods.

Everyone was so happy that they were going to have a wonderful harvest and plenty of food to last through the winter. They were grateful to their Indian friends who kept them from starving.

One Sabbath day when the Pilgrims met at their church, they sang songs and said prayers. Then Governor Bradford stood and began to speak to them. He talked about how thankful they should be for their good friends and their wonderful harvest. He said they would invite their Indian friends to come to a big feast and offer prayers of thanksgiving.

Men were sent to invite the Indian friends to a feast. Some of the Pilgrims hunted and fished and gathered fruits and





*The Bradford home in Plymouth Village.*

nuts from the woods. Others cooked for many hours preparing vegetables, pies, breads, and meats for the feast. Tables and benches were set up in the clearing around their little houses so there would be room for everyone.

About ninety Indians arrived for the feast. They wore feathers in their hair and beads around their necks. What a sight for the little Pilgrim children! While the meat was roasting over open fires, the men and children ran races

and played other games to see who was the strongest and the fastest.

Finally, the feasting began, and it continued for three days! How grateful the Pilgrims were to have so many blessings. They knew they would succeed in making a wonderful new home for themselves in a free land.

Other ships arrived bringing more Puritans, and soon there were enough people to build other settlements nearby. One ship brought a lady named Alice Carpenter Southworth. Her husband, Edward, died when they were living in Holland. She met Governor Bradford, and they eventually decided to get married.

On August 14, 1623 Governor Bradford and Alice Carpenter Southworth got married. She is another of your ancestors.

Chief Massasoit and his wife came to the wedding, and so did four other Indian chiefs. They also brought many Indian braves with them. They brought the happy couple venison and a turkey as a gift.





The Indians danced and played their drums, and there was a big feast. They ate turkey, venison, plums, grapes, nuts, and many other wonderful foods.

Alice and William worked hard the rest of their lives. They had three children named William, Mercy, and Joseph. William was one of your ancestors.

Governor Bradford kept a journal, and he also wrote a book called *Of Plimouth Plantation*, which was a history of the Plymouth Colony. He also studied *The Bible* a lot, and he studied languages. He was very smart. He could speak French, Dutch, and English, and he could read Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.

Governor William Bradford died when he was 68 years old, and he was greatly missed. Before he died, he wrote this poem to his family:

Farewell dear children whom I love  
Your better Father is above  
When I am gone He can supply,  
To Him I leave you when I die.  
Fear Him in truth, walk in His ways  
For He will bless you all your days.  
My days are spent, old age is come,  
My strength it fails, my glass is run.  
Now I will wait, when work is done  
Until my happy change is come,  
When from my labors I shall rest  
With Christ above for to be blest.



*Isaac Allerton*

Mary Allerton

Lydia Cushman

Lydia Harlow

John Churchill

Elizabeth Churchill

Mary Ann Kennedy

John Pratt Kennedy Bird

Lewis Richard Bird

Matthew Fifield Bird



## *Isaac Allerton & his daughter, Mary*

Isaac Allerton also came to America on the *Mayflower*. He brought his wife, Mary Norris, and their children, Bartholomew, age 8; Remember, age 6; and Mary, age 4; with him. You are descended from the youngest daughter, Mary.

The Allertons had a long, hard voyage to America. When they finally arrived in Plymouth Harbor, they anchored the boat so they could go ashore in little boats.

While they were still on the *Mayflower*, Mrs. Allerton had a little baby boy that died, which made them very sad. A few days later, the family went ashore with the other Pilgrims, and they hurried to build a little house to live in. It was right across the street from Governor Bradford's house. That first winter was very cold, and there wasn't much food.

# The Mayflower Compact

from a page of the original Of Plymouth Plantation by William Bradford

54.  
set by them done (this their condition considered) might  
be as firme as any patent; and in some respects more sure.  
The forme was as followeth.

In y<sup>e</sup> name of god Amen. We whose names are underwritten,  
the loyall subjects of our dread soueraigne Lord King James,  
by y<sup>e</sup> graco of god, of great Britaine, franc, & Ireland king,  
defondor of y<sup>e</sup> faith, &c.

Haueing undertaken, for y<sup>e</sup> glorio of god, and aduancements  
of y<sup>e</sup> christian<sup>faith</sup> and honour of our king & countrey, a voyage to  
plant y<sup>e</sup> first Colonie in y<sup>e</sup> Northernd parts of Virginia. Dod  
by these presents solemnly & mutually in y<sup>e</sup> presence of god, and  
one of another, Couenant, & combine our selues together into a  
Ciuill body politick; for y<sup>e</sup> better ordering, & preservation & fur-  
therance of y<sup>e</sup> ends aforesaid; and by vertue hereof to enacte,  
constitute, and frame such just & equall lawes, ordinances,  
Acts, constitutions, & offices, from time to time, as shall be thought  
most meeke & conuenient for y<sup>e</sup> generall good of y<sup>e</sup> Colonie: vnto  
which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness  
whereof we haue hereunder subscribed our names at Cap-  
codd y<sup>e</sup> 11. of Nouember, in y<sup>e</sup> year of y<sup>e</sup> raigne of our soueraigne  
Lord king James of England, franc, & Ireland y<sup>e</sup> eighteenth,  
and of Scotland y<sup>e</sup> fifth fourth. An: Dom. 1620.]

After this they chose, or rather confirmed in John caruer (a man  
godly & well approued amongst them) their gouernour for that  
year. And after they had provided a place for their goods, or  
comons store, (which were long in unlading for want of boats,  
foulnes of y<sup>e</sup> winter weather, and sicknes of diuers) and begun  
some small cottages for their habitation; as time would admit  
they met and consulted of lawes, & ordors, both for their  
ciuill & military gouernments, as y<sup>e</sup> necessitie of their condi-  
tion did require, still adding therunto as vrgent occasion  
in seuerall times, and cases did require.

In these hard & difficult beginings they found some discontents  
& murmurings <sup>arise</sup> amongst some, and mutinous speeches & cariages  
in other; but they were soone quell'd, & ouercome, by y<sup>e</sup> wis-  
dome, patience, and iust & equall carriage of things, by y<sup>e</sup> gou-  
ernour part wth clauo faithfully together in y<sup>e</sup> maine.  
But that which was most sad, & lamentable, was, that in 2.  
or 3. moneths time halfe of their company dyed, especially  
in Jan: & february, being y<sup>e</sup> depth of winter, and wanting  
coucos & other comforts; being ynforted with y<sup>e</sup> gouernour &



Somehow the Allerton family survived that first winter, and springtime finally came. With the help of their Indian friends, they planted a wonderful garden so they would have plenty of food. Isaac went hunting and fishing, and gathered fruits and nuts from the forest. The Allerton family got to attend the first Thanksgiving feast there at the Plymouth Colony.

The next winter, Mrs. Allerton became very sick and weak. She died before the winter was over. Isaac and his little children were very sad. They knew they would miss their mother very much.

A few years later Isaac married another lady named Fear Brewster. The children were happy to have a mother again. She was good to them, and they soon grew up and had families of their own.

Isaac stayed in Plymouth for a long time, but he finally decided to move to the New Haven Colony in Connecticut. He died there when he was almost 70 years old.

Bartholomew went back to England to live, where he married, had children, and stayed the rest of his life. Remember married Moses Maverick, and they had three or four children. They moved to a town nearby named Salem.

Your ancestor, Mary Allerton, married a man named Thomas Cushman, and they had eight children. The Cushmans stayed in Plymouth all their lives. Thomas lived to be very old and died in 1691.

Mary lived longer than any of the other original *Mayflower* passengers. She died on November 28, 1699 in Plymouth, the last of the *Mayflower* passengers to leave the earth! She certainly had an interesting and exciting life. I hope you will always be proud to be one of her grandchildren!



*Embarkation of the Pilgrims* (1844)  
by Robert W. Weir

Protestant Pilgrims are shown on the deck of the ship *Speedwell* before their departure for the New World from Delft Haven, Holland, on July 22, 1620.

William Brewster, holding *The Bible*, and pastor John Robinson lead Governor Carver, William Bradford, Miles Standish, and their families in prayer. The prominence of women and children suggests the importance of the family in the community.

At the left side of the painting is a rainbow, which symbolizes hope and divine protection.



*Richard Warren*

Joseph Warren

Mercy Warren

Samuel Bradford

John Bradford

Mary Bradford

Elizabeth Churchill

Mary Ann Kennedy

John Pratt Kennedy Bird

Lewis Richard Bird

Matthew Fifield Bird

## *Richard Warren*

Richard Warren also came to America on the *Mayflower*. He was a merchant who lived in London with his wife, Elizabeth, and their five daughters, Mary, Anna, Sarah, Elizabeth and Abigail.

When many of the Puritans went to Holland, Richard and his family stayed in London to take care of their business. The Warrens planned to join the other Puritans when they returned to London on their way to America.

The Puritans had decided to take two ships, the *Mayflower* and the *Speedwell* on their voyage. Sadly, the *Speedwell* started leaking and had to be left in England. That meant that about half of the people had to stay in England for a while longer.

Richard and Elizabeth decided it would be best if she and their five daughters stayed in England until he could make

a home for them in America. Richard told his family good-bye, and he left on the *Mayflower*. They were separated for two and a half years, which must have been very hard for the Warren family.

When the *Mayflower* reached Cape Cod Bay, the Puritans decided to send out a few men in a little boat in order to search for a good place to make their settlement. Richard Warren was one of the men chosen for the search party.

On a cold December morning, the men set out to explore this new land. The weather was very cold, and when waves sprayed them with water, it froze on their coats. When they saw a place they thought might make a good home for their families, they would land their boat and go ashore to explore a little. They found Indians hunting and fishing, and there were wolves and other wild animals in the forests.

When evening came, the men had to quickly make a good shelter in which to camp, because they didn't have tents and other camping gear like we have today. They used logs, stakes, and big pine boughs to build a tall barricade. This helped protect them from the wind and cold, and it also gave them some protection from the Indians and from wild animals. They cleared the ground in the middle of their shel-





ter so they could build a fire. The fire kept them warm, and they also could cook some dinner before they went to sleep. What an adventure this must have been!

For several days, the men continued their search for a suitable place to make their new home, and finally they found the place we now call Plymouth, Massachusetts. A few years earlier, most all the Native Americans who had lived there died in an epidemic, so it was uninhabited when the Pilgrims came. The men were so glad that their mission had been successful, and they returned to their friends on the *Mayflower* so they could share the good news.

Richard Warren was one of the men who signed the Mayflower Compact. He promised to obey the rules and laws they had agreed to, in order to have a peaceful new colony. He knew it would help them survive if they all worked together.

Richard and the other Puritans worked very hard to build little houses to shelter themselves from the very cold, harsh winter weather. Several of the people died that first year, but Richard made it through alive. He worked hard to make a good home, so his family could soon join him in the new land. Richard was given land, cattle, and goats.

In 1623, Richard's wife, Elizabeth, and their five daughters, Mary, Anna, Sarah, Elizabeth and Abigail arrived from England on a ship called the *Anne*. Richard was so glad to have his family with him again. It had been a long separation.

Richard and Elizabeth had two sons who were born in America. Nathaniel was born in 1625, and Joseph (who you are descended from) was born in 1627. They were happy to have this addition to their family, but sad times were soon to come.



In 1628, Richard became sick and soon died, leaving his wife to raise all seven children by herself. It must have been a very hard thing to do, but they worked together, and they succeeded in making a good home for their family.

All seven of the Warren children lived many years. They all married and had many children. In fact, it is said that Richard and Elizabeth have about 14 million descendants living today, more than any of the other Pilgrims, and YOU are one of them!



# *Cape Cod from Space*

Plymouth is near the upper left corner, inside the harbor breakwater.

